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# Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

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**ELECTION 2000**  
The Fight  
on the Right

**AIR INDIA**  
Charges at Last

# Air Rage

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Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine  
November 4, 2000 Vol. 11, No. 45

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[illegible]

ROGERS  
MEDIA

## 68 Air rage and Robert Milton

Passenger horror stories at Air Canada are as common as flat luggage, delayed flights, busy signals—and a lot of anger on both sides. Tough-talking CEO Robert Milton is sure he can fix the problems caused up by the merger with Canadian Airlines. But the 40-year-old plane junkie will have his work cut out for him. [Read more](#)



### 18 Fight on the right

The battle to win crucial Ontario seats is pitting Seaford's Tory and the Alliance against tried-and-true Progressive Conservative traditions.



### 30 Charges at last

After a 15-year investigation, the RCMP charged two men with murder in the Air India bombing.



92 A child's true story

How a nine-year-old Canadian girl who died of leukemia came to be quietly commemorated in J. K. Rowling's best-selling *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*



66 Nortel's slide

CEO John Both is still bullish, but Narief's latest numbers have spooked investors nervous about the outlook for pricey tech stocks.

# From the Editor

## An election in search of an issue

**What if they held an election and no one came?** Despite the excitement of the few thousand souls who followed Week 1 of the election campaign, mainly in backrooms and newsrooms, there was no sense that the Canadian people had so far engaged. They will, as the campaign rolls up to the Nov. 8 and 9 leaders' debates and as the Nov. 27 vote looms. And as the bashing begins with negative ads that all sides deploy, but this week until they are pulled amid recommitments. For now, it is an election without a reason or any burning issue.

Instead, candidates spend the week trying out their lines and attempting to establish a pace. But it has been an interesting phoney war, Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day got snared on a overbook and, perhaps more seriously, tried to blame it on his staff. The Prime Minister appeared to be putting down working stiff and had trouble with an Air Canada plane—nothing new there. By the end of Week 1, both Jean Chrétien and Day took their machines back to the shop for realignment and got set to fight again. The other leaders fought for a place in the sun.

Some of the most interesting developments took place on the ground, as local campaigns tried to shift into gear. *Marble* reporters lined out to catch the early *Harbour*. The results:

Senior Writer Robert Sheppard went to the legion hall in

Greenwood, Ont., for an Alliance party meeting in the hotly contested Simcoe/Cowichan riding, where the Liberals edged Reform by fewer than 500 votes in the last election. In largely rural Simcoe/Cowichan, northwest of Toronto, Sheppard discovered that the Alliance campaign was woo Conservative party voters, and suggest the Liberals, a having raised issues. As in the case throughout many of the ridings targeted by the Alliance, provincial issues have split loyalties. How they vote in several key ridings will determine whether Day makes a breakthrough in populous Ontario, where all but two of the 103 seats are held by the Liberals.

In the first of her weekly campaign columns on the issue, *National Correspondent* Mary Jurgan assesses the two proposals of the Liberals and the Alliance, demonstrating that they are not necessarily what they are cracked up to be.

From Down East, Bureau Chief John DeMoor profiles the riding of Halifax, one of the nation's historic bellwethers, the first of a series on five key seats across the country. *Marble* reporters also sampled the mood of people in the five ridings.

Calgary Bureau Chief Brian Bergman examines the growing sense that the Liberals have turned their backs on the West in pursuit of a majority based in Ontario and Atlantic Canada. Notes from the Edge, compiled from staff reports, probes the underbelly of campaign 2000. This eight-page special election report begins on page 18.

*Robert Lewis*

[sheppard@torstar.com](mailto:sheppard@torstar.com) or to comments on From the Editor

## Newsroom Notes

### Flight to nowhere

**Perhaps it was inevitable.** *National Business Correspondent* Katherine Maclean and *Photographer* Phil Sael had just arrived at Toronto Pearson airport. Their assignment was to fly to Montreal to meet with Air Canada CEO Robert Milton for this week's cover package. But sure enough, their Air Canada flight was cancelled. The

pair did get on the next flight, and Milton later nicely explained there had been mechanical problems. His message in the interview was that the "incredible pressure" the airline came under during the summer has lifted, "with the exception," he added, "of your flight today."

Air Canada passengers, who have endured months of chaos in the wake of the merger with Canadian Airlines, will



Maclean with Milton, above

be watching closely to see whether Milton can deliver on the promises he outlined to Maclean. "He still faces many challenges, especially on the labour front," she says. A native of Montreal,

Maclean joined *Marble* in August after working as a business writer at the *National Post* and, earlier, as a producer at CBC Radio. Her report begins on page 68.





Whyfield's psychology of Olympic sport

## Healthy response

I would like to endorse your selection of Olympic triathlete gold-medallist Simon Whitfield for your cover of the Oct. 25 issue, "Fit for life." While it fits with the fundamental theme of health, the symbolism went beyond that. What it did was bring focus to an Olympic athlete who epitomizes the mythology of Olympic sport. His story was not one of finding or the sharing thereof. He went out and conquered and humbly outperformed his peers to win the gold. **Rob Jones, Toronto**

Your cover story brings a critically important message to Canadians: develop a healthy lifestyle or suffer the conse-

quences later. Other than smoking cessation, regular exercise has the greatest potential to benefit Canadians and our battered health-care system. Exercise has clearly been demonstrated to improve conditions such as coronary heart disease (our number 1 killer), adult-onset diabetes, stroke, chronic obstructive lung disease, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, depression, chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, insomnia, back pain and recovery from both cancer and surgery. What other form of therapy or medication can boast such efficacy at minimal expense? A sick baby boom generation will cripple our health-care system. A healthy generation will save it, and be the role model for future generations. **Dr. Bruce Gertler, Vancouver, B.C.**

It seems to me that while your comparisons of the different areas in your health report may be valid, the reasoning behind them is, to some degree, faulty, particularly with regard to life expectancy. First, I assume the calculation of life expectancy is based on death rates at various ages, but how many people who live to 80-plus years have needed in the Vancouver area for most of their lives? In my experience, many of my friends and acquaintances came here from other parts of Canada either midway through their lives or upon retirement. While their death at 80-plus will raise the average life ex-

## Who's going to tell?

After seeing the photo showing the Hills Angels marching on the backs of Quebec bikers in your article "The uneasy union" (Canada, Oct. 25), I have to assume that Quebec's language police haven't yet gotten around to informing Maurice (Moe) Boscher of his group's flagrant disregard of the province's French-only laws. Haven't anyone complained?

**Olivia Nickel, Winnipeg**

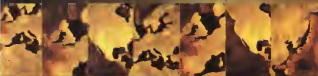
percity here, it has very little to do with the so-called advantages of living in the Lower Mainland. Second, how many of these people have taken part in healthy lifestyle activities on a regular basis? I have one good friend in his 70s who goes up the Grouse Grind and hikes in the mountains, but he was doing similar things before he left Ontario some 15 years ago. Third, average income: It would seem to make more sense to use average disposable income, that is, that amount available after paying for the necessities—food, clothing and housing. On that basis, parts of the Lower Mainland would probably show lower averages than some other parts of the country where living costs are not as high.

**Hugh McDermott, Surrey, B.C.**

If only our health and longevity were completely under our control, as you seem to suggest. Where is the role of genetics (for example, in Quebec's relatively more homogeneous population), or exposure to particular industries or occupations (such as the connection of mining with asbestosis and emphysema), or factors in our air, water or the earth's living near close to the Sydney tar

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# Overture

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith  
with Shanda Drost



Clark (left), Mulroney "which one of us do they like the most?"

## Over and Under Achievers

## Vote early—and often!

Election update: The PM—Why, why, why? Stuck Enough  
in the day? Joe: He never says "No" Mulroney: "You're not  
"no" Joe: Alex: Just say, try, try! Callie: These elections  
make him right!

♦ **Jean Chrétien:** Tell us again why we're having an election now? Sorry, we still don't get it. One more time: "It's because..."

♦ **Stewart Bell:** Coffee-riders off-the-cuff speeches also have off message with voters. And enough with the partisan photo ops: some content as well, please.

♦ **Joe Clark:** Makes mileage just by not falling flat on his face. And when that thing he prides in a Toronto Tory feud-mess? Why, no...

♦ **Brian Mulroney:** He's tanned, he's smart, he's steady

♦ **Alexa McDonough:** Good news is she can take NDP message smacks to voters without much media flinching. Bad news is that because no one's covering her campaign

♦ **Gilles Duzepe:** Takes reports on a tour of Chrétien's riding to show off gaffs of dollar PM involved in controversies. Then, say, "Local: This candidate says he'd seek some heavy A metaphor for someguy?"

## Over the Limit

## Cheap talk?

Bell telephone long-distance users take note: the company has slashed a portion of its rates to its First Rate subscribers two years after getting a \$20 monthly ceiling on evening and weekend calls within Canada. Bell says the changes—



Your 800 minutes are up

which reduce discount hours from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.—affect about two per cent of First Rate customers (those who log more than 800 minutes a month). Most talk for about 100 minutes a month. Only those heavy users received a letter notifying them of the change; others received notice on their last bill. Bell says the new plan is still competitive—but for some, talk isn't as cheap as it once was.

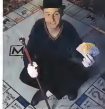
In December, 1998, Bell wrote to customers who had defected to other carriers, urging them to return, because "we promise you'll never pay more than \$20 a month for calls within Canada, weekdays and all weekend long." Bell says the changes—



## Monopoly Primer:

## Hog the houses and stay in jail

Two-time Canadian Monopoly champion **Billy Bartel** (in) shy about his gaming strategy. Although the 23-year-old University of Manitoba student hasn't earned a penny from his passion since he started competing in 1992, his game skills have led to travel to such places as Monte Carlo, where he finished 19th out of 35 at the 1996 world championships. Bartel admits this year's 30th-place finish in Toronto last month was a disappointment, but says he'll be back in four years to defend his Canadian title and try for the \$15,140 in prize money awarded to the world champ—the same amount of dollars won't to competitors at the start of



*with game. He spoke with **Recreation-Reporter John Lattini** about the strategies that have helped make him Canadian champ.*

Monopoly is about 75 per cent skill and can almost be played like chess. You want to buy everything you land on. You want to build up and out the board in half from jail to jail and take the sale with Free Parking on it since that's the most frequented side. My favourite properties are the orange set and the red set. It is not a good thing to stay in jail

*Bartel, it pays off to be nice to your opponents.*

early on because you can't buy properties, but late in the game you want to stay in jail for the full three times when you're sent there, since you can still collect rent from opponents but not risk landing on their properties. Towards the end, houses become an important part of the game. The best thing to do is act like a tourist and keep your opponents from building up by buying the houses. "Bourgeoisie rules are that there are 36 houses and 12 hotels in a game. If you can get four houses on each property on one of your sets, you've taken away a third of the game's houses. Housing houses is by far the most important strategy. Another thing is to always stay on your opponents' good side. If you can be head-buddy with someone, they are more apt to trade with you—which is a huge part of the game near the end. It is very important to manipulate your opponents.

## Over the Border

## 'White-boy rap'



*Enthusiastic, do you share his past?*

The top against hip-hop from **Reckless**—who appeared in Toronto last week—is that his lyrics encourage violence against women and girls. **Blackstar's** correspondent **Rima Kar** spoke to Toronto hip-hop artist **Yanis (Yanis) Dandy**, 29, about how and his lyrics.

The majority of people who buy hip-hop music are white middle-class teens who want something to

be angry about, because when you are a teenager, you have to have some sort of passion or rage for something. The hip-hop music industry created him into this "white-boy-rap" icon. While he is crying out in pain, they are exploiting his emotional dysfunction. In that respect, I do think it is detrimental, not because he is expressing his pain, but because they turn it into resolution to that pain.

With black hip-hop artists, it is expected that we have this rage. People are fascinated by the fact he is a white angry male. Parents have a problem now because their sons and daughters are emulating somebody who looks like them so they can't separate race. Most people take the cap out that it's people that have to raise their kids. Everyone in society has to take responsibility. The industry is not causing of the emotional stability of young people. They are there to explore anything that tells and rage will always tell.

## Overbites

"I personally don't want anyone coming to Canada who will come here and advocate violence against women. The lyrics are shocking and disgusting."

—**Ontario Attorney General Jim Flaherty** explains why he asked the federal immigration department to determine if American rap star **Enimem** should be allowed into Canada to perform.

She, you think I won't choke to where 'til the vocal chords don't work on her about no more!

—Sample lyric from the Enimem song **All You**. He has also sang of killing his estranged wife, **Kim Mathers**, and featured images of children with cut throats.

"You know it's gone to hell when the best rapper out there is a white guy [Enimem] and the best golfer is a black guy [Tiger Woods]."

—**Retired basketball star Charles Barkley** (a black guy) discusses life



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## Over to You



Neil McDonald

## Canada, from a canoe

**Pierre Trudeau** was something of a champion for canoeists. That he loved to paddle is well-known, and his accomplishments inspire even experienced wilderness travellers. Excerpted from his 1944 essay "Exhaustion and Fulfillment: The Arctic and Canoe" pop up frequently in canoe literature—and no lines more often than these: "What sets a canoeing expedition apart is that it justifies you more rapidly and inescapably than any other. Travel a thousand miles by train and you are a human pedal live hound on a bicycle and if you remain basically a bourgeois, paddle a hundred in a canoe and you are already a child of nature."

No canoeist can read these words and not feel part of a special tribe. After Trudeau's passing, a friend gave me a copy of the essay, and I read it aloud for the first time. Its conclusion has stayed with me: "I know a man whose school could never teach him patriotism, but who acquired that virtue when he felt in his bones the vastness of his land, and the greatness of those who founded it."

I am only slightly older now than Trudeau was when he wrote his essay. I have canoeed since boyhood, and now work full time as a wilderness guide. I lead canoe and snowshoe trips in places like Algonquin Park and the Temagami region in Ontario. I guide because I like the work—not only the combination of physical and mental challenge, but also the chance to share the benefits of wilderness travel with those who wouldn't otherwise experience them. I also take trips for myself. A solo canoe journey to Hudson Bay remains my most cherished memory, and a three-month trip with friends during the freeze-up season in Labrador comes a close second. These trips are not meretricious in survival or deprivation. We take as much food as we need and wherever comforts we can fit into a

canoe (compared with hiking, canoeing is downright decadent, compared with a motor boat, it's spartan). How does one live comfortably alone? This question translates into an innateness in the manner and techniques of those people who lived on the land. I go to learn traditional skills and to live outside for more time than most people can afford.

A long trip demands that you pay attention to what's around—whether that is the scale of the land, the inescapable power of the weather or the example of those who have gone before. These forces work on you to cultivate a mix of independence and caution, self-confidence and humility, determination and acceptance. They teach you to know yourself. Over time, a long trip changes you, and you cannot experience this change without growing to respect the forces that created it. You cannot live like this without developing a patriotism in its simplest form, a connection to each country. Patriotism of this kind is not student and never needs to proclaim itself with flag-waving or shouts. It is woven into our muscles; it grows as we grow, and is as secure as our sense of our own selves.

Much has been made of Pierre Trudeau's love for Canada. His passing caused me and many people I know to reconsider our feelings for our country. In the recent mourning, even the word "patriotism" has been freed from irony, cliché and false sentimentality. If Trudeau is a champion for canoeists, his example also speaks to anyone whose work or leisure takes them onto the land for extended periods. For most Canadians, he gets it right: to feel patriotism in our bones is no empty phrase.

*Neil McDonald is a wilderness guide based on Pelee Ferry, Ont. Submissions may be sent to [service@maclean.ca](mailto:service@maclean.ca) or faxed to (416) 336-7339. We cannot respond to all queries.*

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

## Media hits—and misses

On the day after he kicked off the election campaign last week, Jean Chrétien made a stop at the University of Western Ontario in London that was aimed at highlighting the \$2.5-billion scholarship fund spearheaded by his government. Here, if you missed it, is an excerpt of his remarks: "I know that if this [scholarship] had existed at that time, that friends who never went to school but went into the factories at 16 would have been great citizens. If they had had the occasion to go to university, they would have been fabulous, but they could not afford it." Leaving aside the curious sports for a minute, the media focused on the manner in which the PM appeared to suggest that only the well-educated make good citizens. *The Globe and Mail* discovered some factory workers who felt, when asked, insulted, and Gilles Duceppe found it another reason for Quebecers, and others, to feel humiliated.

That incident had a half life of a day or so, before we journalists moved on to other things—like Stockwell Day's ignorance of the fact that the Niagara River runs north, not south. Both stories were classic *gonzo journalism*: politicians make relatively minor mistakes, and journalists fill all over themselves to point them out. With Chrétien, his gaffe was at least partly attributable to the fact he was speaking in his second language as he later made clear, but meant that a good education gives people a chance to enrich themselves. Anyone who has ever made a speech or given a live interview in a second language can sympathize with his misfired phraseology: there's that sinking feeling of becoming lost in mid-sentence, or in sudden search of a verb that won't properly conjugate, or a noun gone too hiding. As to Day, how many journalists covering him that day knew for themselves, before being told, which way the river runs?

That's not to say such media events aren't newsworthy—but those around the journalist bar should be aware of the double standard that results. The PM's fractured efforts in both official languages have always posed a problem for those who cover him. To me do you clean up his grammar or run him verbatim? We behave as though we're doing him a big favour when we clean up his phrasing before publication, as it usually the case. But in fact, he's simply the recipient of the more generous conditions we grant ourselves. At *Maclean's*, when we run interviews with the PM, we clean up most grammatical errors before publication. But the clear, concise questions you see attributed to his journalists interviews are edited in the field on. And when you watch a taped TV interview, don't be taken in by the host's fluid tone in questions. At some—though not all—networks, that's the result of a "re-ask" after the interview, the convenience shown the host asking more abbreviated, direct

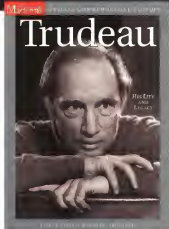
question versions of the original questions. Those are applied in to make them sound like part of the initial exchange.

Among political reporters, there's a long-standing joke to the effect that, at election time, editors always demand fresh, original coverage—until they're given just that. Then, editors worry that their readers are missing the real news—encouraging the staff everybody else is reporting, like the PM's linguistic missteps. Political campaigns are black holes for those who believe in the idea of original ideas in journalism. In this election, just about everyone is doing a "miley check"—measuring the accuracy of candidates' claims. In their eagerness to catch candidates fibbing, journalists go to sometimes unfathomable lengths. For one example, CBC's *The National* prepared one night last week to catch Joe Clark out to lunch in claims he made about what the party's proposals for income tax reform would achieve. After watching the same half-report twice—the second time while taking notes—the only thing that really seemed clear is that TV is a really bad medium for breaking down complex numbers and issues.

But, at least some of the time, so it goes. In August, the *National Post* ran a banner front-page story that used a new poll by the Angus Reid Group (now known as Ipsos-Reid) showed that 58 per cent "would scale back medicine." That seemed remarkable—but conveniently in keeping with the paper's editorial stance in favour of doing just that. But the poll didn't say that the result stood out part of an open-ended question that asked respondents what they would do in the event that present levels of service could not be maintained at existing funding levels. Reid senior vice-president John Wright said, when interviewed elsewhere, that the *Post* story was misleading and inaccurate. He said the most striking finding of the poll was that 83 per cent supported the idea of increased funding—either by shifting government spending from other areas, or by increasing taxes. In short, many more people would rather keep the system at present levels—even if it might mean higher taxes to do so.

On the other hand, politicians can take solace in the fact that sometimes they don't have to do anything differently to make media coverage become more favourable. Reporting on Day's campaign was almost uniformly negative last week—until an Ipsos-Reid poll commissioned by the *Globe and Mail* showed his support climbing, and the PM's dropping. The *Globe* immediately adopted a more favourable tone in its front-page items on Day—even though the poll, as you discovered when you turned inside the paper, was conducted purely before the campaign began. While it's probably true that politicians can't live without media coverage, you can see why many would lose the chance to try.

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Tories on the provincial hustings.

With four weeks to go—and with Liberal strength appearing to hold in the contested (and politically Harris-held) suburbs that surround Toronto—the battle for seats will be most fierce in the half dozen or so ridings in the old Tory heartland. And while the so-called Harris Tories—voters and small-town organizers—hold the key, they are also caught in a kind of political prison movement. On the one side are Joe Christies Liberals, making the Alliance's tax relief thunder and making close deals with the Ontario government to help fund Toronto's Olympic bid. On the other are heartfelt appeals from old women like former Ontario premier Bill Davis, who spoke at a Joe Clark fund-raiser last week, extolling the virtues of loyalty and reminding mightily about how he has helped out on every federal Conservative campaign, from John Bracken and George Drew to Brian Mulroney and Kim Campbell. (Alliance organizers have tried to get big-name Tories, including former provincial cabinet ministers, to run for the new party. But no one has agreed—indeed, it was the Tories who dragged former provincial health minister Dennis Timbali—so the house has been passed largely to those who have fought in the trenches.)

In a way, George Denney, the Alliance candidate in Simcoe/Grey, can be seen as a Bill Davis Tory. He worked his way up through the organizational ranks from vice-president to president of the local Tory association. He broadened his small-town experience by accepting provincial appointments to the animal-chains court and the College of Physicians and Surgeons that regulates Ontario doctors. And when his family was gored and he had reached a certain stature as his constituency, he was talked into standing for office. Isn't that the way conservative candidates have always been chosen in Ontario?

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## On the Issues Mary Janigan

# The bottom line on taxes

Since the Liberals scurried to lower taxes and the Canadian Alliance shelved its flat tax, it may seem like the middle-of-the-road has become crowded these days. Don't be fooled: crucial differences over who should get those tax breaks remain between the parties. And they do much to account for the options each is flinging at the other. Both have proposed deep cuts for all income earners. With less wiggle room, and their already opportunistic update on Oct. 18, the Liberals have become nervous to the tax-cutting cause. They would trim \$100 billion over the next five years. The Alliance would lop off \$125 billion over the same period, paying for that with vaguely defined spending cuts. But the real difference lies in *how* they would cut taxes.

The Liberals fiddled with the traditional, so-called progressive structure, which daps higher rates on higher levels

of income. Previously, the highest rate of 29 per cent would have applied to all income over \$61,509. But, beginning on Jan. 1, 2000, Canadians will pay rates of 26 per cent on taxable income between \$61,509 and \$100,000, while income above \$100,000 will continue to be taxed at 29 per cent. Taxpayers will pay 16 per cent (down one per cent) on taxable income up to \$30,754—and 22 per cent (down four per cent) on income between \$30,754 and \$61,509.

In contrast, the Alliance would simplify the tax system. Until this fall, the party espoused a single rate of 17 per cent. But it has compromised during its first terms; it would impose 17 per cent on taxable income up to \$100,000, and 25 per cent above that amount. The basic personal exemption would be increased from \$7,231 to

\$10,000. All taxes would follow during its second term. The party should perhaps reconsider—if only because of the potential pitfalls. An *as-yet-unpublished* Canadian Tax Foundation study by University of Alberta economist Melville McMillin looks at Alberta's impending move to a flat rate of 10.5 per cent on Jan. 1, 2000. Although taxpayers earning between \$30,000 and \$100,000 will receive tax cuts, they will also bear a larger share of the tax burden—from 39 to 64 per cent. The burden on low-income Albertans will decline due to higher credits. The share of wealthier Albertans remains the same.

Even with the two-tax Alliance system, an upcoming report from the

Toronto-based Centre for Social Justice calculates that families with after-tax income of \$20,000 or less in 2000 would see income increases of up to three per cent. Families with more

than \$150,000 in after-tax income would see an increase of 7.1 per cent. Says the tax foundation's senior research associate David Perry: "The Alliance is changing the traditional approach to taxation by making the middle-class, instead of the wealthy, more responsible for the cost of government."

The rhetoric is rising. The Alliance says it will liberate Canadians from crippling taxes—and free ordinary Canadians from higher rates if they get raises or work overtime. It denounces Liberal tax cuts as too small—and maddeningly bureaucratic. The Liberals counter that the Alliance will fawn on the wealthy with poorly targeted tax breaks financed through dubious spending cuts. Both sides may have equal rewards the centre—but only so they can take better aim at each other.

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Election 2000

## A legacy of anger

By Brian Bergman in Calgary

Western Calgary editor Jim Gray feels as if he's seen this movie before. A Liberal prime minister, running in what most believe will be his last election campaign, seeks to win a third majority government—with little regard to the party's dismal prospects in Western Canada. The last time that scenario played out was 1980, when Pierre Trudeau won 167 of 282 seats, only two of them west of the Ontario-Manitoba border. For people like Gray, chairman of Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd., the chief legacy of that election was the National Energy Program, which many Albertans blame for strangling the oil-patch in the early 1980s with heavy taxation and regulation. "Something similar could certainly take place," says Gray. "Am I expecting it to happen? No, I am not. But he who ignores history is bound to repeat it."

While most pundits doubt the Liberals are fading, a 1980-style upset in the West. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's fall election bid has stirred up a new round of despair—and resentment—in the region. With the exception of Winnipeg and pockets of Vancouver and Victoria, Western Canada is an electoral wasteland for the Greens. Even in British Columbia, polls last week suggested that the pre-election

lead enjoyed by the Liberals was already slipping away—a phenomenon that also occurred in 1997 when the Liberals emerged with only six seats in the province, compared with 25 for the Reform party and three for the NDP. "If I was a Liberal," says University of Western political scientist Norman Ruft, "I wouldn't be getting too excited."

At the same time, the emphatic Liberal strategy are placing on reelection

**Many westerners believe that the Chrétien Liberals have simply written off their region**

as in Atlantic Canada and protecting the party's stronghold on Ontario leads many westerners to conclude that the Liberals have simply written off their region—an assertion party insiders strongly reject. "I couldn't disagree more," says Winnipeg MP John Hurnard, who last year headed a task force that examined westerners' concerns. Hurnard acknowledges the Liberals face some historical hangovers in the West, but suggests there are ways. "For example," he says, "deficit and debt reduction is a priority for western-

*Justice Minister McLellan facing a tough re-election battle as her Edmonton riding*

ers and we've defended on that." Like many other Liberals, Hurnard also proposes an easy fix to regional anger. "I may be biased," he says, "but I think if westerners chose to send more Liberals to Ottawa as part of the governing party, that would go a big way towards easing western alienation."

That does not appear to be in the cards anytime soon. Many political observers believe the Canadian Alliance, under Stockwell Day, could do even better than its predecessor, the Reform party, which won 60 of the 88 seats in Western Canada in 1997. If so, one of the most high-profile casualties may be Justice Minister Anne McLellan, who is facing a tough re-election battle in the riding of Edmonton West. McLellan, one of only two Alberta Liberal MPs (the other is fellow Edmontonian David Kilgour), most now confess votes like David Ward, a 45-year-old computer technician. Ward, who voted for McLellan in 1997, acknowledges she is a good constituency representative. But he is upset by what he sees as the Liberals' failure to get tough on crime, citing amendments introduced by McLellan in beef up the Young Offenders Act that died on the order paper with the election call. Ward, who plans to vote for the Alliance, would also like to punish the Greens for what he perceives as their arrogance towards the West. "The Liberals are now a regional party," he says. "Their focus is on the East and they don't seem the least bit interested in what goes on out here."

If McLellan is feeling the pressure, she isn't showing it. "I'm going to stay focused on the issues that I believe matter to my voters," she says, adding off health care, education, debt reduction and lower taxes as examples. "Our agenda is so in tune with where Edmontonians want to go in the future. We just have to make that point." Perhaps. But McLellan and her fellow Liberals will find it hard to overcome a legacy of distrust—and a nagging suspicion among many westerners that, once again, their votes may mean little in deciding who forms the next government. ■

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# A riding full of surprises

As the election campaign heats up, the fighting promises to be bitter, not just in the glare of the national spotlight, but also at the grassroots level. Among the ridings where the battle is likely to be particularly intense: Vancouver Centre, currently held by Liberal cabinet minister Hedy Fry, Calgary Centre, where Conservative Leader for Clark is fighting for his political survival, Markham, Ont., where the Canadian Alliance gained a foothold with the Sept. 7 defection of Tory MP Jim Jones Leavel, Que., narrowly won by the Bloc Québécois in 1997 (they'll become the federalists vote split between the Liberals and the Tories and Halifax, where NDP Leader Alexa McDonough is trying to hold her own seat and beat back a Liberal resurgence in Atlantic Canada. Over the course of the campaign, Maclean's will take each swing in close riding about key issues (page 26). Maclean's correspondence will also provide in-depth profiles of the five ridings. This week, Halifax Bureau Chief John DeMars looks at Halifax:



When did Alexa McDonough's people realize that her Halifax opponents were not going to roll over and play dead just because she is a national leader and home-town favourite? Anthony Silvano, who handles public relations in the New Democratic Party leader's riding office, got a hint of what may be ahead when he went hunting for campaign space one night three weeks before the writ was dropped. As Silvano piloted his red Mazda through the mostly empty Halifax streets, he repeatedly found himself following a black sedan carrying two middle-aged men who seemed to be jostling down some of the same hand-drawn numbers. The next morning when he called to ask about one of the dips, he learned that the Progressive Conservative party had, just minutes before, leased that very space. The NDP had to settle for another choice: two conference floors on a main thoroughfare with room for no parking.

The building should have given McDonough organizers a warning: looking at

deftly via. The same space, after all, served as campaign headquarters for her resounding 1997 victory that helped provide the beachhead for the NDP's breakthrough in Atlantic Canada. But so much has changed since then: the Liberals, after ignoring the region in the run-up to the last election, have been spending freely Down East this time around. Meanwhile, NDP popularity—already rock-bottom across the rest of Canada—has plummeted to almost single digits in Atlantic Canada. McDonough, as a result, will be spending more of the campaign far from her own riding, trying to keep her party afloat. That's bad news for any leader—even one with a reputation for such sunny rectitude in her home province that political opponents call her "the Mother Theresa of Nova Scotia politics." And it helps explain why her well-organized local campaign blasted so quickly from the starting blocks last week in Halifax. Her phones were hooked up

McDonough at her nomination meeting in Liberal challenge



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## NDP Leader Alexa McDonough is a home-town favourite, but Halifax riding is a place where fortunes have often been reversed

before the Tories, Liberals and Alliance had even nominated candidates and, within hours of the election call, orange and black "Alexa" signs seemed to sprout like exotic Halloween plants on lawns throughout the riding. "People don't vote for the party, they vote for Alexa," says Don Mills, president of Corporate Research Associates Inc., a Halifax-based polling company. "She seems unassailable."

But odd things have a tendency to happen when voters step into the booth in Halifax, a diverse urban riding of about 86,000 stretching from the port city's old-money south end out to the middle-class suburbs and the gritty working-class north end. In recent history, Halifax has ebbed and flowed according to the big national trends. During Joe Clark's 1979 minority, Tory lawyer George Cooper took the riding by just 15 votes. A year later, when Jeanne LeBlond acted as a major, ex-prime minister Gerald Regan made Halifax a Grit seat. In 1984, with the country going Conservative, Halifax voters chose Tory lawyer Stewart McLane, who was later awarded the supply and services and public works cabinet portfolios in the Mulroney government. But in 1988, while his party retained power, McLane was upset by Liberal Mary Clancy, a lawyer, who won even bigger five years later during the Grit sweep. In 1997, Nova Scotia decisively turned its back on the Liberals, and it was McDonough's turn. She took 69 per cent of the vote, ousting former provincial Tory cabinet minister Jerry Donahue and Clancy, who finished third. "I have always felt that Halifax is a perfect microcosm for all of Canada," McDonough says. "There is no disconnect between the issues that resonate there and the preoccupations of the entire country."

Local issues do matter in Halifax. The Liberal reluctance to replace the dropped Sea King helicopter rescues with members of the Canadian Forces and their families, while curbed in health-care funding strike a special chord in a city that serves as the region's medical centre. Meanwhile, a federally funded harbour cleanup seems no closer to reality after seven years of Grit rule. "Alexa has been a busy being a national leader to be attentive to her riding," agrees Paul Fitzgibbons, 62, a former printing company owner who is standing for the Tories. Even if that is the case, few Liberals or Conservatives really expect McDonough's performance as a constituency politician to cost her her seat. All but invisible on the national stage, she remains person-

ally popular in Halifax, where the ex-social worker and millmaker's daughter has always appealed to voters from different levels of society. The question is: can McDonough, who, as former leader of the Nova Scotia NDP, won her Halifax provincial riding four consecutive times before jumping to federal politics, hold on if the tide turns against the New Democrats? "She runs ahead of her party," maintains Agor Adenomon, a political science professor at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S. "Alexa is a national leader in a place where that counts for a lot."

The riding, after all, has a historical precedent for supporting leaders of national opposition parties: Robert Stanfield, the federal Tory leader, won the Halifax seat three consecutive times during the Trudeau era. The difference was he came within a hair of forming the government in 1972. McDonough, if early predictions hold true, could see her NDP lose its official party status. The Grits hope that subtlety regions with voters—and there on Nov. 27 the people of Halifax decide they would rather support a member of a party that could form the next government, rather than send the leader of a marginalized party back to the House.

Even so, Halifax Liberals are not exactly brimming with confidence about raising the sea. Party organizers hoped that regional strongman and former senator Bernie Boudreau, the minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, would decide to raise on McDonough in Halifax. Instead, he resigned from the Senate to run in the nearby riding of Dartmouth, a seat held by the far less formidable New Democrat Wendy Lill. The upshot: the Liberal burner in Halifax is carried by Kevin Lixie, 37, a fiscally conservative United Church minister with an intriguing résumé who has never been elected to public office.

Even Lixie, who has appeared in the now-cancelled *Block Harbour* CBC TV series and worked for U.S. presidential candidate Gary Hart, concedes the national Liberal campaign will be throwing its weight behind Boudreau, a cabinet minister who faces a tough three-way battle, rather than a no-name candidate running against a locally popular national leader. "I know the odds are against me," he says. "I'm running against an icon." Asking for a miracle is too much. But in Halifax, as he well knows, strange things have happened. ■

### Halifax

POPULATION	73,488
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP	95.2%
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$44,888
MOTHER TONGUE	
English	83.8%
Other	4.3%
French	8.7%
RELIGION	
Protestant	44.3%
Catholic	38.3%
No affiliation	11.6%
Other	4.8%
1997 ELECTION RESULTS	
Alexa McDonough (NDP)	69%
Tory Donahue (PC)	23.3%
Mary Clancy (Lib.)	21.6%
Stewart McLane (Ref.)	5.4%
VOTER TURNOUT	66.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Electoral Statistics





Election 2000

## A Difference of Opinion

Is the Liberal party the only true national party?

In his campaign rhetoric last week, Jean Chretien urged voters to return his Liberals to power on Nov. 27 so they can be represented by the only national party left on the federal scene. The other parties, he maintained, are all merely regional rump. But according to an informal Macdonald survey of voters in five ridings across Canada—Vancouver Centre, Calgary Centre, Markham (northeast of Toronto), Laval East (south of Montreal) and Halifax—fewer people side the Prime Minister's statement as fact than he may expect. In fact, nearly twice as many of those questioned disagreed as agreed.

That is the case where the Liberals are strong—as in Ontario, where they hold 101 of 103 seats—as well as where they are weak, such as in Alberta (two of 26 seats). "I think Chretien is misinformed," said Susan Chevalier, 49, who owns a consulting firm in Markham, Ont., that does training and development for technology-based organizations. "A lot of people are not represented by him." Louise Koenigs, 60, a retired Vancouverite, also believes the Prime Minister's notion does not ring true, "since the party's power base is in Quebec and Ontario." But then Koenigs, who is angered by the early election call, adds, "I think most of the federal parties are regional."

Others, though, view some of the other parties as national in scope. Not surprisingly, no one claimed the Bloc Québécois is anything other than a provincial party. And only one person



Walker (left) and Thergood: 'no strength'

suggested that the Canadian Alliance is at the moment a national party. But interestingly for the New Democratic and Conservative parties—each of which may, according to many political pundits, be at death's door—their names came up often. "In my mind, the NDP is still a national party," said Rick Valencia, 65, a retired public-health administrator in Calgary. "The Tories as well. In fact, I think [Joe] Clark may have underestimated the number of disenchanted Liberals who may want to vote PC, because the Liberals have not truly been a liberal government."

Even among those who still regard the old-line parties as national institutions, there is a longing for something more. Helen Walker, 54, co-owner with Keith Thergood, 45, of a Markham-based marketing consultation and design firm, draws an interesting analogy when she describes Canada as a giant game board. "All the parties are like crabs scuttled feebly across the board," she says. "Yes, they are in every province, but not

equally. They may have some strength in the West, or in Quebec. But there is no sense of strength in any one of them."

How do you expect the parties to fare in various regions?

About one-quarter of those asked in the five ridings said they could not—or would not—speak for voters elsewhere. Of those who did project how the election may turn out elsewhere in Canada, only a few expect any of the parties to make any regional breakthroughs. Pierrette Dionne, 60, a nursing supervisor in Laval, says the Alliance is poised to win some seats in Ontario, Quebec and Eastern Canada. "I don't have the idea of Soudowld Day," she adds, almost sheepishly. "I listen to him and I find he speaks well."

The vast majority, however, believe the House of Commons will look much the same as it did before the election call. Yvon Rouleau, 63, a retired engineer in Laval, expects the same regional divisions to emerge as in 1997, when the Bloc took 44 of 75 seats in his province. But he is not sure that is a good thing. "Frankly, I ask myself about the usefulness of the Bloc at the federal level," Vancouver character actor Tony Davidson, 67, would also like—but does not expect—to see a change in the campaign. "We're stuck with what we've got," he grumbles, "and it may be the best of a bad lot."

Barbara Wickham, with John DeMoss in Halifax, Brenda Brucewell in Laval, Susan McGillivray in Markham, Brian Bergman in Calgary and Ken MacQueen in Vancouver

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## Notes from the Edge

Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith

## Get the scapegoats ready

If Jean Chrétien's Liberals lose their majority, party insiders have decided who will bear blame: chief of staff Jean Pelletier, senior policy adviser Eddie Goldsberg—and the PM himself. *Maclean's* has learned that when 55 members of the party's national executive held a regular quarterly meeting in St. John's, Nfld., on Sept. 22 and 23, every member was adamantly opposed to an early call. Chrétien's advisers then broadcast an early-September poll suggesting that while most Canadians would prefer a spring election, the Liberals could persuade them to accept a call this fall—3½ years into a five-year mandate.

Nothing, Liberal insiders said, could dent Chrétien's inner circle: they dismissed warnings that they would lose soon in the West and Ontario by arguing that they could compensate by gaining in Atlantic Canada, "Perry's club," and a disaffected Liberal. They calculated that the only way Stodovell Day could make inroads in Ontario would be by ending Chrétien's credibility—and gambled that Day would lose valuable time by sticking to the high road. Communications director *Pascal Desros*, noted highly for tactical skills but not as highly for dealing with reporters, will usually stay off the PM's plane, and work with the team deployed to raise quick responses to Alliance charges. They've prepared some blurringly negative ads against the Alliance to run before the Nov. 8 and 9 debates that, one insider says, "on a scale of one to 10, are 10." Chrétien points to 1977, when Pierre Trudeau refused to run—while riding high in the party's prewar polls. "We left it too long," he has told supporters, citing Trudeau's 1979 defeat. No one can say this of this PM.

Mary Juergens



Threatening the voters with their own money

## Yep, it must be French

In a Quebec appearance before the election call, Stodovell Day told reporters he thought the Alliance could be competitive in all of the province's 75 ridings. *Alain Richard*, co-owner of *Rebelles.com*, the Montreal digital marketing firm handling the Alliance's French-language commercials, has a more realistic—though still upbeat—view of the Alliance's chances. Richard gives high praise to Day as a person, but concedes he needs to work on his French: "There are still certain French expressions that need to be fine-tuned. When we say, 'Bien, après demain, après-je vais le faire' [What the heck are you doing?], he looks at us." He also acknowledged that the Alliance "has enormous difficulty with women and ethnic groups. With women, the message [against] abortion goes over with difficulty. In Quebec, that's done."

Dorenda Beauregard

## A brighter spotlight

When it comes to monitoring money's influence in federal politics, local constituency fund-raising has been a black hole. Riding associations aren't subject to the rules that shine a light on national parties' accounts, which would force them to reveal who gives them money—and how much. In past elections, riding often dumped large sums into the war chest of candidates—without revealing where the money came from. Take Liberal cabinet heavyweight



Kingley's war chest

John Gidder

**John Manley.** After the 1997 election, he disclosed names and amounts for \$26,200 donated to his campaign. As for the \$74,664 he got from his Ontario South Liberal Riding Association, the original donors remain a mystery.

Now, an all-but-unannounced rule change may put an end to that sort of untraceable financing. Chief electoral officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley's officials say that under the new Elections Act, sources of riding association money raised over to candidates must be disclosed this time. But not, alas, until after the election.

to apply  
precious jewels  
selected stones



Here is the only firm that first week of the *Maclean's* Web census. Click your vote at

[www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca). The question:

Which party leader do you think would make the best prime minister?

Stodovell Day 121,000 164

Jean Chrétien 100,000 150

Joe Clark 100,000 150

Alvin Macdonald 100,000 121

Gilles Duceppe 100,000 121

Note: This is not a scientific poll based on the customary random census sample.

# Arrests at last in the Air India case

329 people were killed in the 1985 bombing

By Ken MacQueen

The calls to Porvix Madon's North Vancouver home began at 9 a.m. on Friday with the fire rangers. After more than 15 years, officers and RCMP members were arriving upstairs in the murder of her husband, Suresh, and 328 other passengers and crew of Air India Flight 182. The bombing, which plunged the London-bound jumbo jet into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ireland on June 23, 1985, is the largest mass murder in Canada's history. For Madon, and thousands of other family members whose loved ones boarded the plane in Toronto and Montreal, the tragedy is intensely personal. She lost her 40-year-old husband, a airline instructor, her son, Eddie, then 8, and Nasuha, 4, lost their father.

On Friday morning, Madon waited and worried. Although the RCMP's Air India task force, recently strengthened to 60 members, had notified the family of previous developments in the painstaking investigation, they'd told her nothing about pending charges. "I'm not making any comments until everything is put in place and these guys are arrested," she told *Maclean's* on noon. "I've waited so long for anything to get screwed up now."

Almost as the police, task force members were sweeping down. In the B.C. interior city of Kamloops, Ajah Singh Bagra, 51, a milkworker, was arrested outside his home and immediately flown to Vancouver. At the Khalsa School in Surrey, students peered through windows as police picked up 53-year-old Republican Singh Malik, a Vancouver milkstore businessman

who serves as president of the charitable society that operates the independent Sikh school.

Later, the RCMP announced a stunning list of charges against the two men. Further arrests were also expected in what authorities characterize as the largest RCMP investigation in British Columbia, called "one of the largest and most complex investigations ever undertaken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police." To critics of the drawn-out investigation, the replied: "There is no set standard as to how long an investigation of this magnitude should take. In fact, there have been few, if any, investigations of this magnitude to compare against."



Dera Hayer confers with his wife, Isabelle, as the charges are announced. Justified



Retrieving debris from the Air India Boeing 747-001, Canada's largest mass murder

Now, it will be followed by one of the most complicated and lengthy trials in Canadian history—one that could stretch three years or more and include as many as 1,000 witnesses. The prosecution team alone has 13 lawyers, including some of the top legal talent in Vancouver. Trial members spent two years sifting the mountain of evidence raised over by RCMP investigators before approving the charges.

Bagra and Malik jointly face eight criminal charges, including the first-degree murder of the 329 passengers and crew of Flight 182. Other charges include the first-degree murder of Hiden Amino and Hirohiko Koda, two baggage handlers killed when a suitcase bomb, intended for another Air India jet, Flight 301 to Bangkok, exploded prematurely at the New Tokyo International Airport in Narita, Japan. That bomb blew up an hour before a similar device downed Flight 182. As horrific as the loss of life was, it could have been worse. There would have been 177 passengers plus crew on Air India Flight 301, Bagra said. Both suitcase bombs, police maintain, originated on connecting flights out of Vancouver.

Police allege that the conspiracy included at least two other people, and

probably more. They name two "unindicted co-conspirators." One is former Brampton, B.C., resident Talwinder Singh Parmar, who founded a B.C. group with numerous links to the Sikh terrorist group Babbar Khalsa International, determined to carve from India a separate Sikh nation to be called Khalistan. Parmar was killed by Indian police in 1992. The RCMP have long considered Parmar a key suspect in the bombings, which they link to the extreme Sikh separatist movement.

The second co-conspirator named by police is Indjit Singh Rept, 48, a former Duncan, B.C., electrician who was imprisoned in 1991 to 10 years in prison for his role in building the bomb that exploded at Narita airport. He was, and now the only person charged by the RCMP task force. Rept's lawyer, Kuldip Chaggar of Burnaby, says he is not aware of any further charges pending against Rept, who is due for release in June. "He was definitely the fall guy," he says of his client. "The wrong place at the wrong time, perhaps a little too innocent and naive for his own good."

In a surprise move, the RCMP also charged Bagra last Friday with the 1988 attempted murder of the late *India-Canada* Times publisher Tara Singh Hayer, who was left in a wheelchair after the shooting. Police won't say if there is a link to the bombing, but Hayer's newspaper articles often put him at odds with Sikh leadership, including Malik. Hayer was killed in



Malik Bagra (right) after a 15-year police investigation, the trial itself could last three years

1998—shot in the garage of his Surrey home. Tara's son, Dave Hayer, and Dave's wife, Isabelle, have since taken up the dangerous job of publishing the weekly *Times*, the most widely read Punjabi publication in North America

"It's a very sad and painful day today," said Dave Hayer, fighting tears.

Malik is a highly visible and controversial figure in British Columbia's fractious Indo-Canadian community—seen by some as a devout and benevolent figure, and by others as a shadowy godfather of the Sikh community. He often holds court in a spare room behind the school, its walls decorated with posters championing a nation of Khalistan. All the world's religions are under attack, he told in an interview with *Maclean's* earlier this year. Blowing up an airline, however, is not the sort of good Sikh, he said.

The trial will have to sort through a complex tangle of finances, factions and friendships. There will be hundreds of witnesses, from Canada, India, Japan and Ireland, among other countries, as well as a mounting array of forensic evidence, some of it pulled off the floor of the *Air India*. Crown counsel Geoffrey Bawa refused to speculate as to where in British Columbia the trial will be held or how long it may take. However, Kuldip Chaggar, Rept's lawyer, said he has heard the documents are so voluminous they have been digitized on 17 or 18 computer CDs. "It will be a marathon two- to three-year trial, probably to start in about a year and a half," he said.

Almost lost in the legal complexities are the victims themselves. As a prime murder trial, Crown lawyers included Schedule A with their bundle of legal documents. It is a seven-page list of names, beginning with Rajat Aggarwal and ending with Gajendra Talwaraga-Murthy. And it is a heartbreaking read: families of six, eight or nine people, wiped out. An inordinate number were women and children, 84 under the age of 12.

Porvix Madon's husband, Suresh, is No. 157 on the list. She says she will try to attend as much of the trial as she can, though it will be difficult. "We have other lives that need to go on." Often over the years, it seemed that the families were the only ones to remember the Air India tragedy. Madon was bothered last week to realize that the RCMP had not abandoned her on the long journey towards justice and healing. ■

## 'There's a hole in our family'

**JoAnn Wilson**, former wife of Colin Thatcher, died a horrible death. She was beaten about the skull with a blunt object—bludgeoned 47 times—and then shot in the head on Jan. 23, 1983, in the garage of her Bayside home. After a sensational trial, a jury convicted Thatcher of first-degree murder on Nov. 6, 1984, and he received the mandatory sentence—life imprisonment with no parole for 25 years. Last week, Wilson's younger sister Nancy Geiger described the impact of the murder to another jury—this one hearing evidence in Moosic, Que., that Thatcher's horse owned, so determine whether he should be allowed to apply only for parole. "There's a hole in our family that nothing will ever fill," Geiger said in a trembling voice. "I sometimes think about opening my front door and being shot in the chest, or in my garage and shot in the back. I am afraid of Colin Thatcher. I feel upset and angry because he has never ex-



Thatcher, arrogant and obsessive

posed any remorse, real or false, to my parents, to my siblings or myself." Geiger provided the most emotional testimony in a week devoted largely to hearing evidence about Thatcher's behaviour in prison. Reports from several correctional service officials described Thatcher, who maintains his innocence, as arrogant and obsessive. If the jury rejects his appeal for early parole, he will not be eligible to apply until May 7, 2009.

## A nightmare in British Columbia

**Her disappearance** on Oct. 1 from the apartment complex where her father lives was the start of the nightmare for Sunny, B.C., resident. Last week, the horror intensified when a biker discovered the body of 10-year-old Heather Thomas in Moosic Lake, a 45-minute drive from where she disappeared. The RCMP would not divulge how the child died, but they did say her death was being investigated in a homicide—by more than 40 officers. At week's end, Heather's family released a statement thanking the public for its "outpouring of love."

## The hunt is on

**The story began** to resemble a fictional thriller On Oct. 15, Toronto police found a cross-Canada warrant for the arrest of Ron and Lauren Kowalski, founders of the King's Health Centre in downtown Toronto, for fraud. Last week, with the couple still on the run, authorities raised their estimate of how

much the Kowalskis had allegedly siphoned from the medical centre, other enterprises and investors—to fully \$50 million. Witnesses also reported having seen the Kowalskis on board their 15-m luxury powerboat off North Carolina. Police said they thought the couple was trying to reach Panama, a traditional haven for criminals that has no extradition treaty with Canada.

## An easier morning after

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh announced last September in December, British Columbia will be able to buy the morning-after birth-control pill without a doctor's prescription. British Columbia is the only province to allow free access to the pill, an emergency measure that should be taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse and has been available for 30 years with a prescription. Women will now be able to obtain the pill with only a pharmacist's approval.

## Biker fears

Eric Lapointe, a Quebec rock singer who publicly criticized biker gangs, was forced to cancel a concert because of low ticket sales attributed to fears of biker violence. Three of his fans were recently caught up by men identified as bikers affiliated with the Hells Angels. The cancellation also came in the wake of the murder of Francis Lalonde, a live owner in Terrebonne, 30 km north of Montreal, after he had expelled biker-supported drug dealers from his establishment.

## Justice, American-style

A special sitting of a U.S. court in Montreal heard testimony against Ahmed Ressam, a former Moroccan resident and suspected Algerian terrorist currently imprisoned in Seattle. Ressam was arrested last December after allegedly trying to enter the United States with bomb-making equipment. The U.S. court is gathering statements to be used at Ressam's trial on terrorism charges, which is scheduled to begin next March in Los Angeles.

## Expanding an investigation

The RCMP in Alberta asked the Ontario Provincial Police for help in their investigation of the unsolved death of Karman Wilis, 16, at the rural commune belonging to convicted oil-patch vandal and environmental activist Wiebo Ludwig. Wilis was shot and killed during an early-morning pyrotechnic in June, 1999. OPP officers have been asked to interview people who knew Ludwig and his family when they lived in southwestern Ontario in the early 1980s, when Ludwig was a Christian Reformed Church pastor.

# The Digital Revolution

Advertising Supplement



"Revolution" is probably the most overhyped word in the English language. But it's not hype to use it to describe the changes wrought by digital technology.

Digital technology is bringing the world right into our homes. Now high-definition digital TV services offer stunningly realistic pictures and sound. New internet multi-player games let players immerse themselves in incredibly lifelike alternate realities.

We can access the world's music from our computers, in the form of downloaded songs and internet radio stations. If we want to wake up to Brazilian radio, or check out an obscure Australian band, the Internet makes it possible.

With home networks, we can access all these digital resources anywhere we live. We can even tap into home security and automation systems over the Internet.

The Net also helps us take our homes to the world. Widely dispersed families can stay in touch by exchanging pictures and videos electronically.

The revolution doesn't stop when we leave our homes. Cellphones and pocket computers let us connect to the Net wirelessly. We can get a mail wherever we are, check our bank balance or order groceries.

And all of this is happening right now.

## Sketch Pad



New

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## The Digital Revolution

## The Internet Everywhere

You don't need a computer to surf the Net

Today, getting on the Internet is the number one reason to buy a computer. Tomorrow, getting on the Net may be a reason to buy a new cellphone, television, clock radio or even a washing machine.

Industry watcher IDC (Canada) Ltd. predicts that 32 per cent of the digital PCS wireless phones that will be used by Canadians in 2005 will be Internet-capable. By 2004, that proportion will rise to 90 per cent. "Wireless e-mail will be an appealing application for both consumers and businesses," says Joe Greene, vice president of Internet Solutions research for IDC Canada. While wireless transmission speeds and cellphone screen sizes won't be high enough for rich multimedia applications or long messages, wireless will be useful for short messages, online banking, access to financial information and "location-based services."

By that, he means services that are tailored for the specific location the phone is being used in. For example, at the Toronto International Film Festival in September, users could get information on screenings and theatre locations wirelessly over the air, with the content tailored for cellphones' small



on their computers, the service provider will send audio files that play through the PC's speakers. "It's getting harder and harder to separate wireless and PC applications," Neale comments.

One downside of using a cellphone for e-mail is the lack of a keyboard. The BlackBerry family of wireless e-mail/Web devices from Waterloo, Ont.-based Research In Motion Ltd. have full QWERTY keyboards that you use with your thumbs. The paper-sized BlackBerry RIM 950 and palm-sized BlackBerry RIM 957 will also store your appointments and contacts. Rogers AT&T Wireless

**DIGITAL FACT** In 2005, 32 per cent of the digital PCS phones in use in Canada will be capable of Internet access. By 2004, 90 per cent of digital PCS phones will be Internet-ready. Source: IDC (Canada) Ltd.

and Bell Mobility both offer wireless Internet service for BlackBerry units.

"What wireless technology really needs is an easy user interface," notes Michael Moskowitz, president of Palm Canada Inc., which sells the popular Palm handheld computers. "Cellphones have small screens, and there's no provision for writing." Currently, Palm users can get wireless access via Bell Mobility's Digital Data to Go kit. The kit includes a cable that connects the Palm to a digital PCS phone.

Next year, Palm will introduce a new series of handheld computers with slots for tiny Secure Digital add-on cards. This will make it simpler to add new functions and devices, such as wireless modems, to Palm computers. That will eliminate the need to connect your Palm to a cellphone when you want to access the Net wirelessly.



For handheld computers based on Microsoft's Pocket PC operating system, wireless connectivity is available in the form of add-on Compact Flash cards that connect the Pocket PC to a cellphone. "This is an area that people are very interested in,"

says Blott Katz, Pocket PC marketing manager for Microsoft Canada Co. "It's a great way to keep in touch." Katz says we can expect to see Pocket PCs that are wireless-ready right out of the box, as well as cellphones that double as handheld computers.

The Internet is coming to television as well. Rogers Interactive TV lets subscribers surf the Web and access e-mail on their TVs. Web pages are adjusted on the fly so they display well on television screens. Next year, Rogers Cable will introduce a second-generation service with faster speeds and added features like instant messaging.

"As we go further out, what will be seen is the integration of television and streaming video from the Internet," says Michael Lee, vice president of interactive services at Rogers Cable Inc. "In effect, the Internet becomes one big TV channel." This will fundamentally change the nature of television, Lee believes. "TV could become a non-linear medi-



um." "As we move into the future and not too far into the future when you load up the dishwasher you might get information from your hydro company offering a reduced rate if you start the cleaning cycle after midnight."

Jeff Kirk, manager, consumer solutions, for IBM Canada Ltd., tells of a washing machine under development that will use the Net to get washing instructions for tricky jobs — for example getting a red wine stain out of a delicate fabric.

## That's Entertainment

**DIGITAL FACT** Computers are present in 60 per cent of Canadian households. Thirty per cent of those homes have two or more computers. Source: IDC/Nelson Co. of Canada

## Digital technology is bringing incredible choice and picture quality to our TV screens

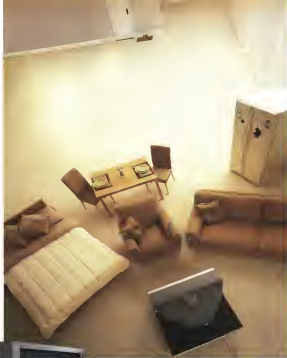
When direct-to-home satellite TV services came to market a few years ago, viewers were told to prepare for the good channel universe. Now experts are beginning to talk about the "one-channel universe" where the programs you most like are automatically delivered to you.

That's already happening in the United States. Like VCRs, personal video recorders (PVRs) developed by Replay Networks Inc. and TiVo Inc., can record your favourite TV shows. However, they store the programs on a computer-like hard drive instead of videotape. You can instantly jump to the show you want. If you pause a live show in progress, the PVR

any," he explains. For example, viewers who get interested in a news story will be able to explore the story more deeply instead of just watching what the newscast presents.

It's even possible to wake up to the Web. Late this year, 3Com Canada will introduce the Gerbaingo Internet Radio. The less than \$500 device has a built-in modem, and lets you tune in 4,000 different radio stations that broadcast over the Internet. "It will have a clock-radio function, so you can wake up to a breakfast music if you want," says Gina Ottuso, director of home technologies for 3Com Canada Inc.

Ottuso foresees all sorts of different Internet devices in our homes, such as small terminals that let you get e-mail and access the Web from the



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will record it, and you can resume watching it where it left off. You can tell a PVR what kind of shows you like, and it will automatically find and record them for you. For example, hockey fans in Vancouver could tell their PVRs to record all Canucks games regardless of the channels they're on. A PVR can even learn your viewing habits. If you've just watched *A Knight of Shalott* and *Dirty Harry*, the box will keep an eye out for the next Clint Eastwood movie.

Neither Replay nor TiVo has entered the Canadian market. But cable and satellite TV companies are making plans to build PVR functionality into their set-top boxes.

Michael Lee says Rogers will introduce a new digital cable box in early 2000 with PVR capability. It

integrated satellite receiver/PVR in late 2000 or early 2001, says senior vice-president Bruce Barr. Bell ExpressVu will have an integrated receiver/PVR early next year, says Terry Smeets, vice president for technology.

While programming choices multiply, TV picture quality is taking a stunning leap forward. High-definition television (HDTV) has been available in the United States since late 1998. HDTV pictures are far sharper and clearer than regular television. They're wider as well, more like a movie-theatre screen. Canadian HDTV broadcasts are at least a year away, says

Michael McEwen, president of Canadian Digital Television Inc., an industry body that is helping guide the transition of Canada's TV system from analog to digital. Rogers Cable is capable of carrying HDTV signals, Lee says, but is waiting until there's more programming and higher consumer demand.

However, Canadians can already receive HDTV programming via satellite. Bell ExpressVu sells an integrated HDTV satellite receiver/decoder for \$999. Star Choice has an add-on HDTV decoder, priced at \$999. It connects to the company's satellite receivers.

**DIGITAL FACT** Sales of 30-inch-plus direct-view TVs will increase from 255,000 units in 1999 to 285,000 units this year. Projection-TV sales will grow from 96,326 to 120,000 units. Source: Consumer Electronics Marketers of Canada

In addition, you need a high-definition ready television. Panasonic's HD-ready TV line includes a 34-inch direct-view widescreen set for \$15,999, and a conventionally shaped 51-inch rear-projection TV for \$3,999. Sony offers a conventionally shaped 36-inch HD-ready direct-view television for \$3,999, and conventionally shaped HD ready projection TVs starting at \$4,499.

Bell ExpressVu and Star Choice both show the occasional movie from The Movie Network in HDTV, and carry HDTV programs from the American networks. These include monthly specials from PBS and popular CBS series such as *Baywatch* and *Chicago Hope*. CBS's HDTV broadcasts of NFL playoffs will air

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to be carried by Bell ExpressVu and Star Choice.

The amount of high-definition TV programming is still limited, but there are other immediate benefits to owning a high-definition-ready TV, notes Pat Burton, general manager of the home entertainment group at Sony of Canada Ltd. These sets show DVD movies at their very best, he notes.

DVD is to VHS videocassettes what CDs are to music cassettes: they offer easily superior picture and sound quality, not up to HDTV standard, but superior nevertheless. With annual sales growing at a 100 per cent clip, DVD is today's hottest home theatre technology.

## Sound in the Round

New DVD music discs are a step beyond CDs

Ask 100 people what DVD stands for, and 99 will probably tell you Digital Video Disc. After all, the main use for these CD-sized discs is to store movies. But DVD actually stands for Digital Versatile Disc. In addition to movies, DVDs can also be used to store computer software, still images and other data, including digital music.

DVDs can store a lot more information than CDs. When DVD was first proposed, audio manufacturers



allows DVD-Audio to reproduce music with incredible delicacy and precision.

SACD uses a new coding system to store digital sounds. Sony says this system, called Direct Stream Digital (DSD), delivers more accurate, more detailed sound than is possible with regular CD. "I've never seen a product get as much front-page coverage in major audio trade publications as SACD," says Boban Powell, national DVD product manager for Sony of Canada Ltd. Most Super Audio CDs are "hybrid discs" a sandwich consisting of a high-resolution DSD layer that can be read only by new SACD players, plus a



**DIGITAL FACT** In Canada, 250,000 DVD players were sold in 1999, up from 58,000 in 1998. This year, 500,000 players are expected to be sold.

Source: Consumer Electronics Markets of Canada

CD layer that can be read by a regular CD player.

SACD and DVD-Audio discs can contain six audio channels, rather than just two stereo channels, so that people with home theatre surround-sound systems can get sound that mimics real acoustic spaces like concert halls. All SACD players and discs released so far in Canada are two-channel only, but multi-channel discs and players will appear next year. Until now, SACD has been an audio-only format, but this month Sony will introduce a player that plays SACDs and DVD-Video movies for \$2,500.

DVD-Audio is a multi-channel format from the start, and all DVD-Audio players also play DVD-Video movies. Panasonic was the first manufacturer to offer DVD-Audio, when it introduced a player under the Technics brand for \$1,499. JVC has just introduced a DVD-Audio/Video player priced at \$299.

and record companies wondered if this extra capacity could be used to deliver a more compelling musical experience than CD.

Now, two new DVD-based music formats have already made their debut. Sony and Philips, co-developers of the original CD, are promoting a new format called Super Audio CD (SACD). Several other manufacturers, including JVC, Pioneer, Planar, Remond and Toshiba, are promoting a different format, DVD-Audio.

Both DVD-Audio and CD store sounds as digital snapshots. But each second of a DVD-Audio recording can have more digital snapshots for that second's worth of music: up to 192,000, compared to 44,100 with CD. With DVD-Audio, each digital snapshot can be encoded as a 24-bit binary number, compared to 16 bits with CD. This extra information

THE SONY WEGA XBR HAS 4 TIMES THE PICTURE SHARPNESS OF A REGULAR TV. WHICH IS GOOD NEWS, UNLESS YOU'RE AN AGING HOLLYWOOD ACTOR.



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SONY

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THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE SONY





STOCKS ARE UP  
SHOULD I BUY?



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WHAT WILL YOU DO?

## All the World's Music

With the Internet, the music you want is a mouse-click away

How many times have you gone into a record store looking for a specific CD, only to find it's not available? While you can always find top-40 hits in your local record store, often you have to order off the best-of-track records assuming they're available at all.

But the Internet is changing the way music is distributed. Artists who can't get contracts from major labels are now distributing over the Net. Similarly, records that music retailers won't stock are often available for download.

"The Internet is liberating music from living on pieces of plastic," says Toronto writer Frank Ierli, author of *Musik Online*, a book on music on the Internet. "Like the original model of eyes flaring through the air, music is now rates flaring through the Internet. It's allowing musicians and audiences to come together in new ways."

Capitol CyberArk, portable MP3 player



**DIGITAL FACT** Canadian Web buyers made 3.8 purchases on the Net in the last six months of 1999, compared with 5.1 purchases by American buyers.

Source: Forrester Research, March 1999

Stewart Henderson, senior vice-president, business affairs and e-commerce for Universal Music Canada, says his company "sees an enormous future" in electronic distribution. Universal, one of the Big Five record labels (along with BMG, EMI, Sony and Warner Music) has established a separate operating company for developing online music distribution.

In addition to selling music over the Internet direct to consumers, record labels could sell subscription services for music, deliver music to wireless devices and TV set-top boxes, and sell through kiosks in stores, Henderson says. Through kiosks, consumers could choose the songs they want, and a CD would be created on the spot. Henderson says Universal's goal is to have its entire catalogue — over 500,000 titles — digitized and available to con-



sumers.

But none of this is going to happen overnight, Henderson warns. Secure delivery systems have to be developed, in order to prevent piracy. In some cases, artist contracts have to be renegotiated to permit digital distribution of their work. Content has to be digitized so that it can be delivered — not just music, but artwork and credits as well.

Universal plans to roll out Internet distribution in Canada in March, 2000. "By that time, the major obstacles we're facing will have been surmounted," he says.

But music lovers don't have to wait till next year to get music from the Net. At sites such as e-music ([www.e-music.com](http://www.e-music.com)), consumers can download songs from established artists ranging from Louis Armstrong to Frank Zappa. Other sites, such as mp3.com ([www.mp3.com](http://www.mp3.com)), focus on independent artists.

The most popular format for Internet music is MP3. There are other secure formats, such as Windows Media and Liquid Audio. While MP3s can be freely copied, the secure formats let copyright holders control how the content is used. They can allow users to copy it to CD or not, as they choose. For a

free sample, they can have the copy self-erase after a specific date or number of plays.

Most music lovers want to do more with downloaded music than just listen to it through their computers' speakers. With a CD burner (available from Hewlett-Packard, Acer and scores of other manufacturers at prices starting at \$500), you can record songs onto CD. If you want the CD to play in a regular CD player, you'll have to convert your compressed MP3 songs to uncompressed WAV files first, then write the WAV files to CD using a program like Adaptec's Easy CD Creator. You can convert MP3s to WAVs with MP3 playback programs such as Winamp.



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laptops, as opposed to early adapters. "More and more, it's the typical family person who's using these services, in someone who wants an easy, fun, affordable way to share pictures, rather than mailing them." Moxel says demand for Black's scanning services is double what it was a year ago, and five times what it was three years ago.

"By digitizing conventional photos and negatives, you get the best of both worlds," he says. "The ability to share images electronically, and the longevity and picture quality of conventional photography."

In the end, however, most people will wait hard copy of their pictures. Even modestly priced colour inkjet printers can produce output that rivals conventional photos. Tom Tomkins, general manager, Canadian retail operations at Xerox Canada Inc., thinks inkjet technology has come just about as far as it can in terms of picture quality. "When I see the photo quality output of today's printers, I say to myself, 'this is beautiful,'" he comments. The main improve-

Xerox DocuPrint

ments will be in tasks like printing speed. Tomkins says Xerox's latest DocuPrint ink-jets have an Express mode that lets them print colour graphics at greatly accelerated speed, with little discernible loss in image quality.

If you want a real photographic print from a digital image, you can get one from one of Kodak's PictureMakers kiosks. These kiosks are available in 500 Canadian locations, and 30,000 locations worldwide. At a PictureMaker kiosk, you can scan an existing print, or load images from a Picture CD, digital camera memory card or diskette; then add special effects like borders and print out your creation. Kodak is connecting its PictureMaker kiosks to the Internet, so you can download images



from your PhotoNet album to a PictureMaker. You can even send images to a PictureMaker in another city or another country and arrange for a friend or family member in that city to view your pictures and print out the ones they want.

It's now possible to share home videos on the Net as well. Apple's latest iMac computers come with iMovie software, which lets you load in video from a digital camcorder, edit it, then upload your creation to the Internet. Microsoft's new Windows Me operating system also incorporates video-editing software that lets you prepare home videos for Internet sharing.

**DIGITAL FACT** One-quarter of Canadian retail service companies and merchants have Web sites. Of those retailers who don't, 40 per cent plan to be online in the next year.

Source: Argus Field Group, July 2000

## Where the Deals Are

You can buy a lot more than computers and books on the Internet

Last Christmas was touted by many business analysts as the make or break season for Canadian online retailers. Back then, consumer acceptance, credit card security and homegrown retail selection were among the key issues holding the industry back.

One year later, Canadians are less timid with the clicking, but a lack of online retailers is still a problem, despite tremendous growth. Hurdles with currency conversion and cross-border shipping are enough to stop many would-be shoppers dead in



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their trackballs. Boston-based Forrester Research said last March that only nine per cent of Canadian households had bought on the Net, compared to 23 per cent of American households.

However, a July, 2000, Angus Reid survey says the "measured pace" may prove effective in the long run, citing recent e-commerce problems associated with too-rapid expansion and insufficient stock.

In 1999, Canada.com had just 200 retailers listed in its shopping directory. Just one year later, that number had increased to more than 5,000. "These are all fully secure e-commerce retailer sites," says Clair Balfour, e-commerce director at the Web site. The site's "click-through" volume, according to Balfour, has almost tripled between December, 1999, and 1999. "We're expecting it to double again this Christmas," he adds.

One of the pioneers of Web commerce, Dell



consumers. If you're looking for a hard-to-find product, chances are you can find it on some obscure Web site, but the Web can offer great savings too, through free delivery, discount pricing or great clearance sales. Here's a sample of some sites in the well-established e-commerce categories, which offer discounts on pricing, delivery or clearance items.

**BOOKS AND MUSIC:** The ubiquitous desktops and laptops are also available in digital form, and indeed both old CDs, videos and computer software. Both sites are brimming with links changing out to include gift items, and both offer Web discounts on best-sellers. Prairie-based Micalby's & Blaine Bookstore ([www.micalbyblaine.com](http://www.micalbyblaine.com)) with three magazines in Winnipeg and one in Saskatoon, is an authority on Canadian authors, particularly those from the Prairies. They offer discounted bestsellers and free shipping in Canada. Daily 10-percent-off sales of CDs, videos or DVDs are on offer at Sam the Record Man ([www.samed.com](http://www.samed.com)). Delivery discounts are often available on minimum purchases.

**COMPUTERS:** At [www.newline.ca](http://www.newline.ca), computers and accessories are put on sale weekly (free ground shipping too). At [www.futureshop.ca](http://www.futureshop.ca), you'll find Web exclusives, and free delivery on purchases over \$50. Where books, CDs and home electronics are

**DIGITAL FACT** In the first quarter of 1999, 62 per cent of online purchases by Canadians were made at U.S. sites, 28 per cent were made at Canadian sites; by the fourth quarter of 1999, 52 per cent of purchases were made on Canadian sites.

Source: Angus Reid/CMC. ©2010 Angus Reid Systems. Info. used.

dominated online buying, the influx of female online shoppers has broadened the categories. According to the Greenfield Shopping Online Index 2000, fitness, health and beauty products showed the largest increase in sales, while computer software dropped three percentage points and books and CDs showed no change.

If you're looking for luxury soaps and bath items, [www.lushcanada.com](http://www.lushcanada.com) is the Canadian retailer that most inspires the longing for scented Web sites. Lush.com offers tiny clothing and home items for sale, with deep discounts on clearance items. You can shop at a virtual pharmacy at [www.vivacare.com](http://www.vivacare.com). Besides selling everyday products at super low prices, Vivacare also offers free delivery for orders more than \$50.

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## Let's Get Interactive

### Computer games keep getting more and more realistic

Across the Internet, hundreds of thousands of people are immersing themselves in alternate realities through online multiplayer games.

Internet-based virtual worlds, such as Ultima Online, created and operated by Origin Systems, a subsidiary of Electronic Arts, let users experience a fantasy world, playing anyone from wizard to shopkeeper. When the Renaissance expansion pack was released this spring, Electronic Arts reported over 185,000 registered users of Ultima Online, from 125 countries around the world. And more than half of them spent some time in the game every day.

Players have become so addicted that they're willing to pay very real money for virtual artifacts in these online worlds. On the Day Online auction site ([www.dayonline.com](http://www.dayonline.com)), there are 2,000 virtual items for sale, ranging from complete high-ranking game characters, selling for over \$5,000, to sundry weapons and provisions going for a dollar or less.

Meanwhile, the games themselves are becoming more realistic, thanks to new graphics chips that show off these virtual worlds in far greater detail. The new GeForce 3000 graphics adapter from 3dfx



Interactive Inc., for example, uses two massive processor chips and requires its own separate power connection. But in return it's capable of displaying

Over the development by the Sims, and published by EA Games Interactive



a smoothly animated view at resolutions of 1600 x 1200 pixels and beyond. That's comparable in quality to high definition television. And the more recent series of Radeon graphics chips from Toronto-based ATI Technologies Inc. should be even more powerful. But this year's landmark gaming event is undoubtedly



edily the Oct. 26 launch of Sony's new PlayStation 2 video game console, bringing similar graphics power to the living-room entertainment system. Within a few days after the product's release in Japan in early March, sales surpassed a million units.

Aside from its virtues as a gaming machine, the \$449 PlayStation 2 also plays standard DVD movies. More important, the PlayStation 2 is powerful enough to allow the creation of sophisticated, intellectually stimulating games.

Of course, it's up to game developers to exploit that potential. In the end, interactive gaming remains more art than science. The best games that have been ones that relied less on sensory appeal than on the old-fashioned values of storytelling.

The top 3-D action game is Deus Ex, developed by Ion Storm, and published by Eidos Interactive. It

**DIGITAL FACT** Canadian retailers logged internet sales worth \$656.6 million in 1999: that represents 0.4 per cent of the total retail sales for that year.

Source: Statistics Canada Report, 2000.

takes PC gamers through a winding tale of international espionage and conspiracy worthy of a best-selling novel, offering several possible paths to follow and several different endings.

But the most fascinating new game of all simulates not some lavish fantasy world, but the minutiae of everyday life. Developed by Maxis, previously responsible for the classic SimCity, The Sims lets players guide their fictional alter ego through such hair-raising adventures as going to work, cooking dinner and romancing the girl next door.

It may seem mundane, but The Sims is corned off with such panache that it becomes oddly engrossing for players of all ages. Which only goes to show that, no less than any other medium, interactive gaming is capable of bringing participants closer together and building a deeper appreciation of those larger human issues. ■



## Education

### Pushing the limits

Mike Lazaridis has had a lifelong love of technology. As a child growing up in Windsor, Ont., he tinkered endlessly with radios, atomos and computers until he understood the math and physics behind them. Now 39, Lazaridis has turned his youthful passion into a remarkable career. Founder of the Waterloo, Ont.-based Research in Motion Ltd. (RIM), Lazaridis is the inventor of the BlackBerry, a two-way e-mail pager that is celebrated at Washington's Smithsonian Institution in the permanent research collection of information technology. Last week, in dramatic style, the soft-spoken, affable Lazaridis demonstrated his belief in science, announcing the creation of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics. The tech genius is donating \$100 million, a significant chunk of his personal fortune, to create an independent centre where researchers can explore the essential mysteries of the natural world. "We need to plant the seeds for new innovations," says Lazaridis. "These things require investment, patience and focus."

The institute, which will begin operating in leased quarters next fall while a permanent home is built in downtown Waterloo, is being conceived in a place of study and reflection for up to 40 physicists and mathematicians, as well as a small number of visiting scholars.

They will examine abstract questions about the origin of the universe and the nature of laws governing all physical matter. Such work, says Lazaridis, rarely produces short-term benefits, but has led to the development of lasers and wireless communication, and may eventually produce new forms of energy, communication or manufacturing. Overseeing the institute will be

### A high-tech tycoon creates a Canadian home for cutting-edge physics research

executive director Howard Burton, 35, who completed a PhD in theoretical physics at the University of Waterloo two years ago. Says Burton: "Many advances in physics, initially thought to be impractical, have become part and parcel of the high-tech age."

The announcement drew immediate applause from the academic and scientific communities. Given the primary focus on applied research, such as investment in basic research should enhance Canada's profile. "It shows extraordinary foresight," says Robert Proulx, dean of pure and applied science at Toronto's York University. "By their

*Lazaridis (left) and Burton: pushing a long-held dream*

very nature, the areas of research to be addressed by the Perimeter Institute will require the prolonged efforts of the world's best minds."

For Lazaridis, the son of Greek immigrants who came to Canada in 1967, creating such a centre has been a long-held dream. The extraordinary success of RIM—a company he founded in the mid-1980s while studying electrical engineering and computer science at the University of Waterloo—has made that dream possible. RIM currently has 890 employees, and counts as customers some of the biggest computer and telecommunication companies on the continent, including Nortel Networks Inc., Intel Corp. and America Online. Innovations like the company in well. Earlier this year, they drew share prices to \$260 from \$35, making Lazaridis and chairman Jim Balsillie, who own about 74 per cent of the stock, worth a combined \$4 billion. Within three months, the stock doubled to just under \$50, but tumbled last week at \$152.

The major question being asked last week was why did Lazaridis not make his donation to his alma mater? He maintains that the academic community at University of Waterloo, which includes one of the largest math faculties in North America and some reach taught-after computer science students, will be an integral part of the venture. But he was determined to create an independent organization, partly to maintain control. He also wants the institute to develop working relationships with researchers at other universities in Ontario and across the country.

In the future, Lazaridis hopes that other private donors will complement his contribution, and the combined \$20 million that Balsillie and Doug Fregin, RIM co-founder and vice-president of operations, have put on the table. "What we're doing today is based on laws discovered many years ago," says Lazaridis. "New discoveries will allow us to make further new versions. And making things work faster and more efficiently always bears fruit."

D'Arcy Jordan in Waterloo

# Battling for the Undecided

By Andrew Phillips in Lakeland

**The deadlocked presidential race is one of the closest in U.S. history**

**The Ladies Who Golf** are sitting around the 19th hole and choosing up sides. Just outside the clubhouse at Big Cypress Golf & Country in Lakeland, Fla., the Maple Leaf wags in the wind alongside the Stars and Stripes—a gesture to the Canadian members who flee their winters for the balmy breezes of central Florida. Inside, Ennary, Maggie, Rae and Barbara ponder their choices on Nov. 7. The verdict runs for Al Gore, one for George W. Bush, and one who insists there's no one in voting because "they all talk and they don't act."

But for those who are willing to vote, however, the reasons behind their choices are telling. No one shows much enthusiasm for her candidate. Ennary Adams, 57, will go for Gore but mainly to stop Bush, who "will do exactly what his father did—and put the country in a worse position." Maggie

they had to go back to work as a cashier at Wal-Mart just to get health insurance. "It's really too bad," she says. It's been like that this political season in the United States. The experts are telling voters that this is a deep election, and in many ways they're right. Control of both the White House and Congress is at stake, with the Democrats trying to regain a majority in the House of Representatives. So is the makeup of the Supreme Court: the next president will appoint at least two members, affecting the ideological balance of the court for many years to come. The presidential race is the closest since 1960, when John Kennedy edged out Richard Nixon by less than half of one per cent of the vote.

And beyond all the froth about Gore's troubles with selling the truth and Bush's struggles with the English language (he flirts with the limousine, in one formulation), they offer a clear choice at a time when the fundamental issue is how to use the windfall produced by eight years of unopposed prosperity. With governments either filling up with surplus cash, should Washington strengthen the social safety net and pay down debt, as Democrats Gore argue? Or should it expand competition into bedrock social programs like Social Security and make deep tax cuts, as Republican Bush proposes?

A distant choice and a close race—nowhere closer than in Florida, a state that was supposed to have been an easy win for Bush, but where he found himself campaigning hard for a day and a half last week. It's a combination that, one might think, should excite voters, especially in an area that really counts in the final days of a seemingly endless campaign.

O'Rourke, 74, also known the vice-president, but mainly because she files his running mate, Joseph Lieberman. "I'm voting Lieberman for president." Sixty-year-old Rae Addford will back Bush, even though "I'm not too sure of him—he uses a bunch of buzzwords through things." And Barbara Helman, who won't vote, is more upset that at age 60



Bush celebrates a rally in Florida. Gore in Denver (opposite) pulls equally

voters—lakeside about their opinions, detached from the process. "It's like a stage show they put on for us," says Adams. "You make a choice, but you don't have to like it a whole lot."

Why the lack of enthusiasm? Partly because of the candidates. Polls show that voters see Gore as overbearing, disincere and liable to say anything for political advantage. They fear that Bush, with just six years in governor of Texas behind him, isn't prepared to be president and doesn't have the experience needed to deal with the dangers lurking on the rest of the world. Partly it's because of the times. Eight years of prosperity (despite recent eruptions in the stock market) and relative peace (despite the tensions in the Middle East) have made government seem less important to ordinary people.

But it's also because of the nature of the fight. Presidential elections start out as grand national campaigns, but by the final 10 days the candidates are fighting state by state to win the 270 votes needed for a majority in the electoral college (the winner of the popular vote in each

Lakeland lies along the "I-4 corridor," named for the highway that runs from Tampa through Orlando to Daytona Beach—the key area for winning Florida, which in turn is the biggest of the so-called swing states that will decide the election. Gore is strong down south, especially among women who originated in the area from the northeast, Bush controls the northern, conservative part of the state. Along the I-4 line the independent voters—a mix of young and old, urban and rural who are being courted by both sides.

It's a tough fight. Bush's advisers concede that he absolutely must have the state's 25 electoral votes to win the White House—and once thought he had a lock on it with the help of his younger brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. So the candidates have lavished time and money on the state, you can hardly turn on the TV without hearing a political ad. Yet the Ladies at Cypress Hills seem typical of many American

states with all that much electoral votes, which equals the number of its votes in Congress. Montana are firmly in one camp or the other, as Gore and Bush are struggling over a dozen or so swing states—including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee and Florida.

There's another late-campaign wild card: Gore party candidate Ralph Nader. Nader has forced Gore to fight for Oregon and Washington state, where his appeal to left-leaning and younger voters could take enough votes from the vice-president to tip the outcome to Bush. Some liberal groups are so alarmed that they launched ad campaigns last week aimed at persuading Nader supporters to hold their noses and back Gore rather than risk giving the election to Bush. "Before voting Nader, consider the risk," says one new ad by the National Abortion Rights Action League.

The result is a campaign that focuses obsessively on micro-







## Experts call it a big election, and in many ways they're right

of interest to undecided and independent voters in the swing states. In Florida, even more than in other hotly contested states, the headline issues have been Social Security and lowering the costs of prescription drugs for senior citizens—no surprise in a state where up to a third of voters are over 60. At a local debate in the town of Lake Wales last week, candidates for a seat in the House of Representatives were peppered with questions about both issues. Always everybody knows someone who can't afford the drugs they need. "There've been times we've left prescriptions at the drug counter," said Don Cowles, 54. "I've seen a man in tears at the drugstore because he couldn't pay. There's no excuse for it."

Gore and Bush both promise help—Gore by adding a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program for seniors, Bush mainly by offering more incentives for private insurers to cover drugs for older people. Likewise on Social Security, both agree it must be strengthened for the far-off approaching day when tens of millions of baby-boomers retire and demand their pensions. But their solutions differ sharply. Gore would take money saved by paying down the national debt to shore up the system. Bush would allow younger workers to invest a small portion of their Social Security taxes in the stock market—with the idea that they could accumulate their own re-

politicians' promises depend on that windfall, the result of deep spending cuts and greater-than-anticipated tax revenue from the booming economy of the 1990s.

The problem is that the money may well not be there. The rosy forecasts for the future, of course, may not be fulfilled. And Congress, flush with the prospect of so much cash, has cranked up spending on a pre-election rush—by \$100 billion in the past few weeks alone. If that trend continues, a non-partisan budget watchdog group called the CBO reported recently, the 10-year surplus would be a conservatively modest \$712 billion—nowhere near enough to finance all the pledges. In short, the group concluded, "the

*Nader in California, inadvertently helping the Bush campaign?*

investment nest egg over several decades. The biggest issue dividing them is cost: Bush offers a massive cut adding up to \$1.3 trillion over the next 10 years, while Gore proposes targeted cuts of \$500 billion—mainly to middle-income taxpayers.

The debate parallels that in Canada, how to distribute the hard-won government surplus now waiting to accumulate in government coffers. After decades of deficits, with a year's surplus starting in 1999, this year the figure is \$81 billion, and the latest forecast for the next decade is for accumulated surplus adding up to a staggering \$4.6 trillion—yes, with a "t." All the

Wildlife Refuge, which borders the Yukon. Canada has long opposed drilling on grounds that it would threaten the local environment.

And what is the effect of having Canadian and American federal campaigns underway at the same time? The last time that happened was 1988—when George Bush won the presidency on Nov. 8 and Brian Mulroney was re-elected 15 days later, on Nov. 23. It seems like a stretch, but one U.S. analyst of Canadian affairs, Christopher Sands of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, argues that either Bush or Gore will emerge after Nov. 7 "with the mantle of change and youthful energy." Nineteen days later, he asks, "how will Canadians feel about [Jean] Chrétien, whose parliamentary career began before either Bush or Gore graduated from college?"

A.P.

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## Taking the neighbour for granted

Canada is the United States' closest friend and biggest trading partner, right? So Canada must have gotten some nod on the U.S. campaign trail, right? Well, no. Except for offhand references to how prescription drugs are cheaper north of the border, Al Gore and George W. Bush arranged to get through a solid year of campaigning without a substantial mention of their great neighbour. That may be a blow to the national ego, but it's no real surprise: politicians focus on problems, and right now Canada is not a problem for the United States.

Still, the outcome of the U.S. vote on Nov. 7 will inevitably produce fallout in Canada. Republican George W. Bush has promised to cut ties much more deeply than Democratic Al Gore, so a Bush victory

would likely increase pressure on Ottawa to keep cutting taxes to remain competitive. He has also promised to use market-oriented solutions to tackle problems like growing demands on the Social Security system. Nothing would oblige a Canadian government to follow suit, but a Bush administration might provide examples for Canadian conservatives to follow.

After seven years as vice-president, Gore would present few unexpected challenges on bilateral issues. But a Bush administration would differ sharply from Ottawa in at least two areas. Bush has said he will push ahead with an ambitious missile-defence plan, a policy that puts him at odds with most U.S. allies, including Canada. And he favours drilling for oil in Alaska's sensitive Arctic National

## The final battlegrounds

As the campaign approaches its climax, Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore are fighting to break through in 24 states where polls show voters are undecided.



● BUSH ● GORE ● UNDECIDED

conditions may just be playing on a field of dreams."

The paradox of the election is that in such prosperous times, with such a stellar record to draw on, Gore is fighting for his political life. President Bill Clinton, despite the scandals that rocked his administration, still scores high marks for job approval. And recent polls show that voters actually prefer Gore's positions on a host of issues from education and health care to Social Security and the environment, as well as considering him more knowledgeable, compassionate and experienced. It should be a ramp for the vice-president—but it has been anything but.

Some point to the lingering, largely unspoken legacy of the Clinton scandals. "People want both change and continuity," argues Charles Cook, a respected nonpartisan election analyst in Washington. "Voters like what they have so

they're not looking for substantive change, but they want a new face. They want an end to the endless series of embarrassments." Often fault Gore's inability to articulate a consistent message—especially his future until recently to make the most of the Clinton administration's record. "Gore was with the master (Clinton), but he didn't learn how to have a clear message, theme and message," says political scientist James Thurber. "He didn't say, 'Hey, we've got peace and prosperity.' You don't have to put your arms around Clinton, but why not say it?"

The reason, in part, is that Gore's campaign has been aided by squabbling advisers who have not agreed on key issues—such as how to take credit for the good things of the Clinton years while dissociating the vice-president from the bad. In recent days, however, Gore has hammered away at Bush's tax proposals, calling them a threat to continued good times. "Prosperity itself is on the bullet," Gore repeats at almost every stop. Bush, in contrast, has had a consistent message for months, attacking the vice-president as a creature of "Washington and promising to "restore honour" to the White House—a reminder of the sexual and financial scandals surrounding Clinton.

No wonder that the touchstone question for the Gore camp in the campaign's final days is how to use Clinton's undoubted political skills. With the contest so tight, the outcome in Florida and other key states on Nov. 7 may turn on which side is most successful at getting out its supporters. It's so close, in fact, that one candidate could win a majority of the popular vote while the other won a majority in the electoral college. Clinton will campaign in California this week in an attempt to rev up Democrats for Gore, but that may provide a final target for Republicans looking to link the two men in the public mind. In the end, Gore's dilemma is that his greatest asset is also his greatest liability.

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## Ebola continues to spread

The death toll from the Ebola virus reached 71 as it continued to spread across northern Uganda. Health officials fear the number may reach 300 before the disease is contained. There is no known cure for the fever, which is spread by human contact and causes massive internal bleeding. This strain of the Ebola virus was last identified in Sudan in 1979, but scientists are unsure how it found its way to Uganda.

## Child murderers may be freed

The young killers of British toddler James Bulger could be freed by February 2001, after a judge ruled they can apply for parole. Jon Venables and Robert Thompson were 10 when they beat two-year-old Bulger to death in February 1993, after luring him away from his mother at a Liverpool mall.

## Revolt in Ivory Coast

Jerry Raw's new president, Laurent Gbagbo, met with his top political rivals in the hope of ending the violence that has torn the West African country apart. Dozens of people were killed in the fighting, which came on the heels of a popular uprising that forced junta leader Gen. Robert Gao to flee. But the violence continued when Gbagbo's rivals demanded new presidential elections.

## Progress on Korean missiles

After historic two-day talks between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and North Korea's Kim Jong Il, the South Korean leader agreed to stop launching missiles for military purposes, something the country has done in 1998. The agreement could pave the way for President Bill Clinton to visit North Korea, more than 50 years after the start of the Korean War.

## Rape charge in Japan

A Japanese businessman was charged with drugging and raping a 23-year-old Canadian woman who worked as a bar hostess in Tokyo, and was formally arrested in connection with the rape of another Canadian woman. Joy Osawa, 48, was also questioned about the disappearance of a British ex-flight attendant, 22-year-old Lucie Blackman.

## World Notes

### Yankees again

New York Yankees first baseman Shea Martinez (right) jumps into the arms of pitcher Mariano Rivera as third baseman Scott Brosnan runs up to celebrate winning the World Series in Shea Stadium. The Yankees defeated the New York Mets 4-2 in Game 5, becoming the first team in more than 25 years to win three straight titles. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a Yankees fan who—like many of the city's 7.3 million residents—sat on the edge of his seat for a week, invited the Mets to join in Monday's victory parade down Broadway, but they declined.



## A tragic message from the deep

A note from a Russian sailor reopened the wounds surrounding the worst naval disaster in the country's history. About two hours after the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk sank in the Barents Sea in August, Lt. Capt. Dmitry Kolesnikov, 27, scribbled a message that he and 32 other crew members were still alive, trapped in the stern. The note, carefully wrapped in plastic, was found in Kolesnikov's shirt pocket after divers had cut through the hull retrieved his body and three others from the wreck. "All personnel from sections six, seven and eight have

moved to section nine," Kolesnikov wrote. "There are 23 people here. None of us can escape." On the back of the letter, Kolesnikov later penned a love note to his widow, Olga.

The message refuted military claims that the entire 118-member crew died within minutes after explosions tore through the submarine—and mislead credentialed in Russia over the accident. "The government was trying to solve all possible problems except one: acting quickly to save the crew," said Voronika Mascherko, head of the anti-military association Mother's Right.

## A suicide bomber strikes fear in Israel

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up near an Israeli border checkpoint, triggering fears of terrorist attacks inside Israel. The incident followed four weeks of bloodshed in which 137 people have been killed. U.S. President Bill Clinton invited Israeli and Palestinian leaders to Washington for talks, but both sides reacted coolly. Terrorists have also upped their game, where members of the Jewish community have been subjected to verbal abuse and bomb threats.

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## World Notes

### Kostunica wants a deal on Kosovo

**With Yugoslav President Vajslav Kostunica on the verge of forming a transition government, the United States and Europe offered the country more financial aid in a bid to shore him up. Yugoslavia will receive \$410 million in emergency assistance, including food, medicine and oil. But difficult political issues remain unresolved. The most contentious involve the future status of Serbia's banatovsky province Kosovo, 16 months after American-led NATO air strikes sought to reverse the "ethnic cleansing" of Albanians at the hands of Serbian forces. At a meeting with Kosovar leaders in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Kosovo must remain part of a united Yugoslavia. And even as Kostunica prepared for weekend local elections in which all 20 parties favored independence, the two leaders called for quick negotiations to reach an accord that would reintegrate the territory with Serbia.**

### The search for a former spy chief

**Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori launched a massive anti-theft crackdown for his former intelligence chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, who returned to the country unexpectedly on Oct. 23 and was thought to be hiding an affair with Letra. Montesinos triggered a crisis in September, when he was implicated in a bribery scandal after being caught on video offering a \$22,000 bribe to an opposition congressman. After the video was broadcast, Fujimori said a new election would be held by next April in which he would not take part. Montesinos, nicknamed "Raspante," fled to Panama but returned to Peru after receiving death threats from left-wing guerrillas and drug traffickers. Montesinos is accused of torture and authorizing death squads in Peru; discrediting his return will further destabilize the country.**



### A double gold medal for Pettitclerc

**Montreal's Charlene Pettitclerc celebrated winning the women's 500-m race at the Panathletic Games in Sydney, Australia. Her joy was short-lived, the referee cancelled the results due to a collision. He was overruled and Pettitclerc was given her medal. She then went on to win a second gold in the 200-m event.**

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Nortel's sudden crash fuels more jitters about the outlook for tech stocks

# Back to Basics

By Jane O'Hara

**Was the stock overvalued?** Or did the market simply overreact? Those are the questions investors are still asking in the wake of the dramatic nosedive in Nortel Networks Corp.'s stock last week. Vancouver management consultant Deborah Pitts, 49, whose model portfolio contains a fair chunk of Nortel, just shrugged when she heard the tech giant had stumbled. There were no panic calls to her broker. She had no sleepless nights. Instead, she seemed philosophical about the downturn. "This is it for the long haul," she said last week, "so the ups and downs don't really bother me. Besides, it's like the weather. There's nothing I can really do about it."

A lot of other players cited Nortel's precipitous descent began early Tuesday evening, shortly after the company released third-quarter results showing weaker-than-expected sales of fiber-optics equipment and a lower-than-expected growth forecast. After hours orders seized the initial wave of selling. By the time the markets in Toronto and New York City opened on Wednesday morning, the stage was set for a fire sell. Within 2 1/2 hours, Nortel's stock had dropped \$24.55 on the Toronto Stock Exchange to \$71.55, erasing 26 per cent of the stock's value. Total loss: a mind-boggling \$83 billion of market capitalization.

The pain—on paper at least—was felt in millions of Cana-

dian living rooms. Brampton, Ont.-based Nortel is one of the country's most widely held stocks, by both individuals and mutual funds. And because of the company's massive growth in recent years, it accounts for a huge proportion—likely anywhere from 24 per cent to 34 per cent, depending on its price—of the TSE 300 composite index. When Nortel stumbles, the TSE often gets sick.

Soon enough, the riot to off-load shares was so intense it crashed the exchange's glitch-prone computers. By midday Wednesday, red-faced TSE executives were forced to halt trading in the stock. And by day's end, the TSE 300 was down 840 points—an biggest one-day point loss ever and, at 8.3 per cent, its second-worst crash after Black Monday's 11.3 per cent on Oct. 19, 1987. Nortel CEO John Roth, the 58-year-old engineer responsible for transforming the once-sleepy phone-equipment maker into an Internet powerhouse, moved quickly to limit the damage to his company's reputation. In a series of on-line interviews from Nortel's office in Brampton, Roth downplayed the debacle. "You have to look at the stock market and any thing you go through these things from time to time," he said, "but it'll pass."

Many analysts agreed, saying the company is fundamentally healthy. By week's end, some buyers had moved in to pick

*Roth: a problem with the rate at which the marketplace can absorb this technology*

up the stock at fire-sale prices, although the volatility faded. Nortel closed down again on Friday at \$65.50. Jeff Wagnan, vice-president of Toronto-based Taurus Capital Markets Ltd., viewed Nortel's fall as a normal correction for an overbought stock that was trading at a whopping 100 times earnings. It's the latest in a long line of tech giants—Nokia, IBM, Intel—to be humbled by investors showing a continuing nervousness with the tech sector. "For now investors who've only seen a one-way market, Nortel's pull-off might be a shock," Wagnan said. "But people who've been in the markets for years to these things. It's a normal part of the cycle and this is now at the end of the cycle. The market is telling us we're in a slowdown. These things don't go on forever."

Wagnan recalls similar drops in Nortel's share price in both 1993 and 1998, when the stock price was almost halved. Then, as now, he used the calamity to pick up stock for his clients at far cheaper prices. "I'm pretty bullish," said Wagnan. "I'm a buyer at these levels. Nortel is still a great company doing a lot of good numbers."

Despite the market's reaction, in fact, those numbers were still mighty impressive. For the third quarter, Nortel showed an operating profit of \$869 million, up 64 per cent from last year. Revenue increased by 42 per cent, to \$11.1 billion. But while that number sounds good, some on the street were expecting as much as \$11.8 billion. Moreover, Nortel forecast 2001 growth at 30 to 35 per cent, while analysts had put it at 40 plus. Those shortfalls caused institutional investors and mutual fund managers to push the sell button.

"The problem here is not necessarily with Nortel," said Dave Powers, a tech analyst with Edward Jones & Co. in St. Louis, Mo. "The problem was with investor expectations. The stock was priced for perfection and now the news is less than perfect." If the point needed any illustration, on Thursday evening Nigeria, Ont.-based JDS Uniphase Corp., another giant in fiber optics, delivered numbers that beat earnings estimates, as well as a glowing forecast for annual revenue growth of 115 to 120 per cent. The stock immediately shot off, although it fell back as Friday's more-rally lost steam.

Roth defended his company's revenue picture, insisting that demand for optical networking systems was still strong. Part of the problem, he said, came from "misinformation begets panic" caused by a shortage of engineers to build the networks. He also said some customers, afraid of shortages, were hoarding equipment. "Building fiber-optic networks is a huge undertaking," he said. "We've now caught up at the rate at which the marketplace can absorb this technology."

Roth is used to challenges. In 1997, he became CEO of what was then Northern Telecom, a company whose core business was manufacturing switches and phone equipment for telephone carriers like Bell Canada. But Roth believed traditional phone systems were about to be left in the dust by computer networking systems that could carry huge amounts of voice and data over the Internet. Changing the name to Nortel Networks, he plunged the company into Internet-based systems. He also went on a spending spree, paying well over \$30 billion to buy up software and fiber-optic suppliers. The new strategy paid off. Nortel is now a world leader in building fiber-optic networks, with about 40 per cent of the market, and goes head-to-head with such U.S. heavyweights as Cisco Systems Inc. and Lucent Technologies Inc.

Although Roth is easy with predictions, analysts at UBS (doing Warburg Inc. say he is still guiding the market to expect high growth—40 to 50 per cent this quarter—in the critical optical-networking field. They warn that with such "very aggressive" targets, Roth better not disappoint or he will once again face the wrath of the market. "Credibility of management, which was dispersed this quarter, is on the line," said the UBS analysts.

Also at stake is the reputation of the TSE, Canada's largest stock market. An suspension of Nortel trading on two days running forced brokers and day traders to queue deals through the New York Stock Exchange. On an average day, the TSE processes 7,000 Nortel trades, but on Wednesday, the company closed on 65,000. The aging system is a mishmash of technologies. The TSE is in the process of switching from a dual computer system to a new single system that should be in place next year. But many brokers are losing patience. "They either get in the game or they're going to die," said David DiScio of Taurus Capital Markets Inc. And for many traders, as Nortel showed, getting in—or out—for as what the game is all about. ■



After months of chaos,  
Air Canada's tough-guy boss  
insists the worst is over

# Air Rage

By Katherine Mankinen

**R**obert Milton is showing off. He is trying to recall the phone number of Doug Green, an old friend from high school who now lives in East Sussex on England's south coast. First, Milton throws out the easy part, the country and city codes, and then in two—you can tell he's working at this—he gives out the full numbers. There's a 38, which he explains is the Boeing code for Qantas Airways, and a 707, which was Boeing's first jet airliner. There's another number, and Milton says his friend's phone number could mean Qantas has that many 707s. Milton laughs, happy the phone number has come to mind. "It's good with numbers," he says. Milton, though, has inside a tiny reminder: The president and chief executive of Air Canada has delivered off the top of his head the correct numbers, but he's omitted a digit, a "1" that is part of the city code. He's good, all right, but he's not perfect.

Milton is the fellow who just 12 months ago wrestled with Gerry Schwartz of Qantas Corp. for control of Canada's airline industry, and won. He'd been named CEO only 18 days be-



Milton is an Air Canada spokesman's target: "You good with numbers?"

fore Schwartz's surprise bid for both Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. But, like a shocking cold shower, Milton, who was chief operating officer prior to being named to Air Canada's top post, had proven himself as a superior systems manager. But he was an unknown quantity when it came to strategic corporate leadership. At the smart money placed bets on the experienced and adept Schwartz, the then-39-year-old Milton spearheaded a multipronged campaign to ward off his rival. He made a bid for Canadian and launched a legal challenge against Schwartz. A Quebec court eventually sided with Milton and Air Canada, leading Schwartz to bow out. The intense battle between Milton and Schwartz, fought so dramatically in full public view, was over.

But for Milton, the Schwartz chapter was just the prelude. Now, the challenge is no longer to win control of the industry, but to get that industry back under control.

Milton—personable, well-suited, quick and still just 40—is confident the new Air Canada will emerge as an international success story. That's why on Aug. 3, he made his famous 100-day promise that he would complete the takeover of Canadian by the end of January—and then just last week, upped the ante by pulling the deadline for customer service to the end of November. American-born but raised on three continents, Milton became a Canadian citizen this year and is eager to make the Montreal-based carrier a major global player. With the takeover of Canadian, the combined company is

now the world's 10th-largest airline. In recent months, it has added a dozen new destinations and has bought or leased 32 new aircraft, with plans for 300 more in the next five to seven years. The company's third-quarter results, for the first time including Air Canada and Canadian numbers together, last week showed a stronger performance than either could have achieved separately. "This airline is growing in leaps and bounds," Milton says. "The world has been unlocked."

Unlocked, too, have been unprecedented levels of chaos—and intense passenger rage—on the domestic front. Cancelled flights, delayed departures, lost luggage, ill-informed agents and unruly passengers have all made flying in Canada a miserable experience, especially this summer. But Milton,

After all, passenger horror stories seem as plentiful as lost luggage. Consider the case of Sue Brisk, a New Yorker who flew Air Canada to Ottawa on Thanksgiving weekend. She made a reservation two weeks ahead of her flight, which had to be confirmed and paid for within 24 hours of the booking. But when she called, the line was constantly busy—for



The day before departure, she called Air Canada. She got through, but the agent, curt and abrupt, informed Brink there were four tickets booked on the same flight under her name. Despite the online rejection notices, the Web site apparently had accepted her confirmation—three times. The agent reversed the extra charges, but not before telling Brink she was lucky—on some travel Web sites, she would not be refunded. “The system was so inefficient it was astounding,” says Brink. “It was like trying to get a giant-coke sent to

Milnes says he is game to accept responsibility for the mess, as long as his critics understand that some fictions took the whole industry across North America by surprise. Such as the weather. Around Toronto, Air Canada's hub, and throughout the eastern seaboard, lightning struck his on a regular basis, grounding planes for up to four hours. As well, Canadians decided that was the year to travel by plane—second numbers, according to Milnes. A third reason?

But if many of those problems were avoidable, Milken's Air Canada lies squarely on a few blades of its own making. In early October, investors and media commentators blasted the airline for placing phone calls to arbitrage stock analysts about its financial picture and not releasing the same information more broadly. After the calls, Air Canada's stock price fell by 32 cent in one day. "We make sure of adequate

The public must be convinced Air Canada is not an airborne disaster.

[illegible]

**Milton on the tarmac:**  
a host of planes close  
his globe-trotting youth



every day—the absolute vast majority of these things we get right,” Milton says. “Was this once a miracle? Milton doesn’t want to answer directly. “Well, be happy if going forward it’s not greater clarity as to what the rules are. That said, I never want Air Canada to lose the heart of that kind of coverage.” Milton, repeating the company’s argument at the time, says the information in the call was already in the public domain. Still, the Ontario Securities Commission is looking into the affair and Air Canada. Milton says, in co-opting.

Also in October, the federal competition bureau issued a temporary “cease and desist” order against Air Canada over alleged predatory pricing. In early September, CanJet, a Halifax-based upstart carrier aiming at the low-cost market, complained to the bureau that Air Canada had drastically lowered rates on flights serving similar destinations at similar time slots in Atlantic Canada to squeeze out the newcomer. “We are challenging the competition bureau,” says

Milton. “We think it is right that we be able to compete, but when you look at what we did, we never crisscrossed their price for price.”

In fact, Milton welcomes the new competition that has sprouted or expanded in the wake of the merger. Canada’s 3000 WestJet, Royal Airlines, CanJet, Swoon, Rotoz Air. He’s ready for them all. His only fear is that Air Canada will be held responsible for an irreversible downturn in this new discount market. “When that happens,” he says, “I know we’ll get blamed.”

So far, Air Canada’s bottom line isn’t really suffering. Its third-quarter results showed

found he was even more enthralled by the whole matrix of flight schedules—“I just studied these things,” he says with a grin—and even as a teen, he fixed his sights on running an airline. His career path was linear: Milton spent his university years in Atlanta, attending the Georgia Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, he used the \$15,000 (U.S.) his father had given him for a car to lease a small plane and start an overnight package service. In 1991, he was a founder of Air Eagle Holdings Inc., an aviation consulting firm. Among the partners was Hella Harris, who was hired by Air Canada the following year as CEO. Shortly afterwards, Milton followed. Harris later left, but Milton stayed, and rose to the top job.

With others, Milton can be blunt and to the point—a characteristic, liked by his friends and loathed by his detractors. When he was a teenager living in Singapore, he and Doug Green were avid game spotters. After school and on weekends, they would walk a mile through the jungle to sit under a blazing sun at the edge of Singapore’s old Taps Lebar airport, with logbooks, binoculars and bulky cameras to record the aircraft. One humid afternoon, two Singapore policemen approached by car. “Of course, in Singapore, the authorities looked on a lot of things with suspicion—for example, two white guys staring outside the fence watching airplanes,” Green says. “I mean, we looked like a couple of spies.”

After some heated discussion, the pair were brought to the police station, where Milton forcefully told the commanding officer he and his friend had been in a public area and had done nothing wrong. “As this conversation was proceeding,” recounts Green, “Robert was getting more and more animated, more and more unhinged, and I was sort of standing with my mouth open, thinking, ‘How far is he going to push this guy?’” Eventually, Milton and Green were let go, and Green was impressed: “He demonstrated his characteristic confidence and occasionally dominant personality.”

Labour leader Buz Hargrove has encouraged that same strong will, but his characteristics are in very different terms. Hargrove, president of the Canadian Auto Workers, ran directly into the wall that a Milton has year while he was still fighting it out with Gerry Schwartz. As president of the union representing 8,600 truck and construction agents at Air Canada and Canadian, Hargrove wanted to extract job-security premiums from both candidates. While Schwartz

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## Ascent and descent

<b>Air Canada</b>	<b>Market</b>
Headquarters:	Montreal
Chairman:	Jack Fraser
President and CEO:	Michael Milton
1997 operating revenues:	\$15.5 billion
1997 profits:	\$213 million

Air Canada stock, closing price



a lower profit—\$107 million—than the previous year's \$115 million, due to a series of one-time costs involving labor and extra integration expenses, plus higher fuel prices. Still, the airline is on track to achieve its goal of saving \$650 million to \$800 million a year by pitting Air Canada and Canadian together, Milton told analysts. And its \$194-million profit for the first nine months of this year is \$18 million better than what the two airlines made a year earlier.

Milton, clearly pleased, takes the numbers aside of his business. But just as much, he likes the logistics he's been an airline man his whole life. Born in Boston, he grew up in Hong Kong, Banora, London and Singapore as his father pursued a career as an international executive. Travelling by plane was a major part of Milton's upbringing and he loved it. Later, he





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## Friends admire the CEO's strong will. To labour leader Buzz Hargrove, 'Milton is arrogant beyond belief.'

sat down with Hargrove and made a deal, Milton fired Hargrove out, as being to negotiate "Milton," says Hargrove, "is arrogant beyond belief."

Many CNA employees of Air Canada agree with their union leader—even though they were fired an agonizing year ago when, labour agreement in hand, he backed Schwartz's bid over Milton's for the union. Then, they were deeply loyal to Milton. They had believed, because Milton told them so, that Air Canada would operate Canadian as a separate company. They also thought they would come out on top if the companies were eventually put together.

Instead, the company fast-tracked the integration of Canadian, putting the workers aside by the way. The key issue for the Air Canada staff is seniority. Individuals who have worked the longest have fine days on vacation time and the best working schedules, crucial in an industry that peaks during the summer and holiday seasons and operates around the clock. Essentially, the Air Canada workers want their Canadian counterparts to be added to the bottom of the Air Canada seniority list, not blended according to individual length of service. The recently signed agreements left the seniority issue unresolved, referring it to an arbitrator. Air Canada workers feel angry and betrayed. "Robert Milton has done nothing—he off-loaded the seniority problem to the union quite easily," says Leslie Diaz, who chairs the CNA unit for Air Canada ticket agents at Toronto Pearson International Airport. "We get nothing but lip service."

Diaz, who worked for 15 years as a ticket agent, says she's never seen anything quite like it—frustrate employees who feel abandoned by their leader while having to arrive, day in, day out, rude and angry customers. The pressure is taking its toll. Among people in her unit on disability leave, normally about 15 per cent on sick leave. Now, it's 35 per cent. Diaz says "It's almost like a systematic form of torture," she says. "I've had grown men down here crying."

Milton sounds pained when asked about the unhappy Air Canada ticket agents. "Last year, during Christmas, the Air Canada employees had never had a bigger supporter than Robert Milton," he says. "They rallied to the defence of this company, just like I did, in their own self-interest. Just as they supported me, I supported them." He argues that management kept its side of the bargain, except perhaps Air Canada's turnaround on Canadian staying separate. He is choosing his words carefully, so though he has repeated this story to a middle-aged child and it is not getting through. "When it became clear that Canadian Airlines was losing \$2 million a day, we had to get on with the integration. But I still absolutely lived up to what I said to the employees."

There's an edge in Milton's voice—the only point in his tenure when he appears angry. He sits and sits at the very front of his chair. There's also a sense of betrayal in what he is saying, which is surprising given that employees share a similar feeling. "You know, I feel like the dad," says the father of a four-year-old girl and a boy nearly 2. "It's no different from any family anywhere—Dad's got to make the calls and sometimes the family just doesn't understand where he is coming from." Milton says he knows he can't please all his more than 40,000 employees at once. "A lot of those people who are complaining, frankly, will take packages and leave," he de-



Checking in: high stress levels among travelling staff

claim. "If that's what they were at this stage in their lives, that's hard for them and unquestionably best for the company." Harsh words, coming from the father figure.

Milton doesn't dwell long on the negatives. He tells employees "this deal with Canadian is going to be the biggest, greatest, most exciting thing that has ever happened in their careers." He might just be talking about himself. Milton knows he's landed Air Canada's top job at one of the most critical junctures in its history. "I'm here at a unique time,"

he says. "I think back to being a kid and living in Branch and seeing Air Canada's DC-8s, or in London's Heathrow and the 747s, and now I'm the CEO of that airline. There's something magnificent about that for me, because I can see in seeing the traffic head all over the place."

Milton is open to jokes—and he'll take them, just as he did when he made a little ruckus with his friend's phone number. But he's not going to let himself flub big time—even if some of his cautioners think he already has. He's too smart, too tough, too far. **B**

To have your say on Air Canada  
[www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)

Canada 3000 and its colourful boss lead a posse of carriers out to take business from Air Canada

# A Challenge in the Skies

By John Nicol

The career in airlines of Angus Kinross has seen him transport ballistic missiles, and Gurkhas over Rajasthan, Nepal, to Hong Kong, convert old passenger aircraft into freight planes and charter DC-8s to show schoolchildren the splendour of Niagara Falls. He scored with the success of Sir Freddie Laker's discount outfit, and came down to earth to start two airlines—including Canada 3000. That he has survived and flourished enables him to spit out comments on the industry with the no-nonsense dominance of a commanding officer. In the 12 years since he founded Canada 3000, he declares, "Canadians have enjoyed the cheapest air travel. Air Canada and Canada lost \$3 billion in shareholder value and 14 airlines have gone out of business." His airline showed a profit for 11 of those years, he says, in his spare time he runs Toronto's Pearson International Airport. The carrier, he adds, is "borderline" and "ready for the next wave of attrition."

Analysis before Canada 3000—the country's second-largest airline after Air Canada's absorption of Canadian Airlines International—was far more pessimistic to survive in the competition spurred by Canada's demise. By increasing the number of destinations and acquiring additional planes, Canada 3000, Royal Airlines, WestJet Airlines and CanJet Airlines (all soon to appear) Roan Air are lining up to capitalize on travellers' dissatisfaction with the way Air Canada has handled the merger and to start chipping away at the national carrier's domination of the market. While Air Canada boss Robert Milton predicts that the smaller airlines will eat each other, "and Air Canada will get killed for it," Kinross believes the fate of smaller airlines is in their own hands. He has no patience for colleagues who run to the federal competition bureau to complain about Air Canada predatory pricing. "Do you want a regulated industry or a market-driven industry?" asks Kinross.

"We're free-marketers. Everybody has to recognize their own market niche. That's what we've done successfully for 12 years—get down in our bunker, pull the lid over the top and get on with it."

If there seems to be a surplus of war images in his vocabulary, Kinross comes by it honestly. His lifetime in the travel industry began, literally, in a suitcase during the Second World War. In November, 1943, he was born in Aberdeen, a town on Scotland's east coast to which his pregnant mother had been evacuated. A week later, he went by train to meet his



## Fare game

As most business travellers are naturally aware, prices are normally highest for those who must fly at short notice. These are the costs for an unrestricted, full-fare return economy ticket, including fees and taxes, for a direct flight. (For Air Canada and CanJet, which have varying prices depending on availability, the range is shown.)

### Toronto-Montreal

Air Canada	\$745-\$819
Canada 3000	\$110
CanJet	\$105-\$145
Royal	\$178

### Calgary-Vancouver

Air Canada	\$645-\$686
Canada 3000	\$202
WestJet	\$285

### Halifax-Ottawa

Air Canada	\$5-\$10
CanJet	\$275-\$538
Royal	\$248

\*Only one-seat aircraft fare



Kinross is the airline's creative centre. "We're free-marketers. Everybody has to recognize their own market niche."

father, travelling in an open manner that would become his passionate business in London air-aid schemes. "My father drilled holes in the top of the suitcase so that there was air," says Kinross, whose childhood fantasy berry more sentiment is he speaks. "I actually slept with the lid closed, because that was the only way if the bomb collapsed the shelter, that I could have still survived."

Kinross emerged from his luggage cocoon into a Hiding affair with the travel industry. He was with the Canadian shipping line when it got into the airline business with Canair Eagle Airways in the early 1960s. His Eagle experience had been arranging flights for British troops to military bases in the Indian Ocean to Australia, just in case the Vietnam War spread. In 1967, he came to Canada for the first time to work for B.C. Airlines, but returned to England in 1971 and later rose through the ranks at Laker Airways. In 1986, he started Air 2000 with a new plane based in Manchester, England, and a typewriter in the back of his car for an office. His goal was to fill the void left by Laker in the Europe-to-North America charter market by making efficiency and reliability his hallmarks. That meant abandoning the wooden operators of the charter business and using new planes.

When he tried to create a base in Toronto, Canadian regulations balked at the foreign ownership and the un-Canadian name. So, a Canadian family bought the British-owned shares, Kinross replaced "Air" with "Canada" and raised 2000 to 3000. Now a Canadian citizen, he owns 10 per cent of the company, while another 20 per cent of the stock was floated this summer on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The key to success, he says, was to learn from past mistakes. "The best way airlines behave where we took old planes out of the desert, refurbished them and put freight down on them, only to realize they weren't economical in the marketplace. Someone else could carry more cargo further than we could,

for less money." That drives his current passion of getting as much out of a plane as possible—not only increasing the number of seats per plane (the airline is famous for being hard on the knees), but surrounding the right plane for the right route and keeping it in the air up to 16 hours a day seven days a week. "If you build a \$145-million factory, why would you operate it only eight hours a day?" he asks, illustrating his thousand models of the Boeing 757 as well as Airbus A320s and A330s. "If you ask the manufacturers, nobody has higher utilization of their planes than we do."

Using well-maintained aircraft day and night does not compromise safety, and Kinross does not apologize for putting so many seats in the plane. If people want more leg room, he finds, they will pay for it. "But the first thing everyone asks when they go to a travel agent is 'Can you give me the cheapest flight?'" He reasons that more people would rather save money on the four hours it takes to fly to Caracas and spend these savings at the vacation spot.

Another secret held by Kinross is to keep on top of technology and market changes. His 15-plane fleet is already the newest set of jets in North America, and in 10 new planes active over the next three years, Kinross says Canada 3000 will profit in fuel efficiency, safety and reliability. As for markets, three out of four flights at the former charter outfit are now regularly scheduled. He will add more frequent domestic flights and expand destinations to the Far East, where he feels the backpunching crowd has originated. That's why he opened a route to Brisbane, Australia, and is expanding next year to New Delhi with what he hopes will be a 14-hour flight from Toronto or Vancouver over the North Pole.

Kinross has no plans to compete with Air Canada for the business traveller. "They produce a very good product with a high frequency of flights"—so he'll leave that to Roan Air when it begins operating next year. Roan is sipping at Air Canada's heels on the busy Montreal-to-Toronto route, and it is also competing with Halifax-based CanJet in the Maritimes. WestJet, based in Calgary, is also growing fast, but is still mostly a western alternative to Air Canada. Julian Muldrew, global industry analyst with CIBC World Markets in New York City, says Canada 3000 "will do quite well because it has positioned itself right in between the full-service carrier and the low-cost short-haul airlines."

The way to expand, therefore, is driving at the big guy, says Kinross. "We don't think Air Canada, no matter how good they are, can maintain its 80- to 85-per-cent share of the Canadian market," he says. In other words, the man who spent his infancy in air-aid schemes is ready to lead the rail on Canada's national airline. Passengers can only benefit. ■



Deirdre McMurdy

## A small-business champion

Last week, as Canada's financial markets were rocked by investor response to Norad Networks Corp.'s third-quarter results and traders bemoaned the loss of billions of dollars in paper capital, it was business as usual for Shirley Ryan. Dressed in a jeansy red suit, the dynamic executive director of the North Saskatchewan Business Association, clustered busily around the Fairchild Exhibition Centre Hall in high heels, putting together the final touches on a room-fest luncheon celebrating Small Business Week in the city.

Organizing lunches, banquet receptions and other social events is just a small part of Ryan's constant whirl of activity. As the mother to 650 member companies, she's part lobbyist, part secretary and a personal booster of local entrepreneurs. From her headquarters in an industrial strip mall in the city's bleak north end, she dispenses advice, opinions and anecdotes—all the while putting on Poyan's light-up cigarettes and sipping black coffee. "I have close rapport with our members—they call me up and ask, 'What are you on about today, you old bird?'" she laughs. "It's my job to keep them in touch with the issues and to help our own people."

Typically, those issues and problems can involve negotiating with the City of Saskatoon, reform of the provincial sales-tax structure or tackling the public school board on its construction-cost overrun. "A big chunk of tax dollars comes from small-business owners, so residents and businesspeople," she barks. "You bet we're gonna watch how they spend."

But increasingly, Ryan says she's concerned about the bigger picture: the exodus of trained and talented young people from the province, the challenge of getting local resources to embrace basic technology, and, consequently, Saskatchewan's relative weakness in attracting new enterprises in a competitive provincial market.

According to Ryan, part of the problem is being near door to the aggressively pro-business environment created by the Klein government in Alberta. There, a combination of reduced business and personal taxes has stoked independent enterprise, enabling the province to cultivate a strong high-tech sector. And that has helped to counterbalance the historical boom-and-bust cycle of the Alberta oilpatch.

But while Saskatchewan's roots in agribusiness have helped to spur some biotechnology developments, that part has also been a hindrance. Until fairly recently, the provincial economy was dominated by the production of just two commodities: wheat and potash. Marketing and dis-

tribution of those products was handled by either the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool or Canpotex Ltd., the potash marketing agency. "We're behind in the game because for so long we didn't focus much on adding value," Ryan observes. "Neither did we develop the export expertise that comes from a strong marketing function. But that's exactly what you've got to have in this global economy: the right mindset as well as the experience."

In her relentless campaign to improve the fortunes and opportunities of her members, Ryan works closely with the local chamber of commerce. She has also struggled to broaden her membership base to include local business and professionals who can help them. On a biweekly basis, the association facilitates "Club Connect," allowing members to network and to pitch business to one another. And at the many public events she attends, as at last week's small-business luncheon, she openly broadcasts her own career measures, like Janice MacKinnon, who holds the provincial economic development portfolio, for a union of political groups.

Although Ryan has no shortage of biases, personal views, which she expresses in occasionally spicy outbursts, she demurely insists that she remains apolitical and tries to work with whichever party is in power. Nevertheless, it's obvious that a looming race to replace provincial New Democratic Party leader Roy Romanow, who is stepping down as premier, and the existence of a coalition government, do not contribute to a strong direction for business policy.

Still, politics has nothing to do with the clearly affirmative response Ryan elicits among her constituents.

"You look more beautiful every time I see you, Shirley," says one member.

"Had your eyes checked lately?" she snaps back. Everyone runs.

With a gruff word for everyone, Ryan has steadily worked her way up for the past 10 years. She began her career in the late 1960s in the Toronto public relations department of investment dealer Wood Gundy. There, she met her husband, Bill, a stockbroker, and together they moved to Saskatchewan in 1971. After raising two sons and naming her elderly mother, she sold real estate briefly. Then came the job at the NSBA, and Ryan came into full bloom. "I just love the job," she says. "Every day you can accomplish something, make some progress."

That's a lot more than you can say about the overnight trading in high-tech shares, not to mention last week's paper losses from Norad alone. But then, the folks on Bay Street lost Shirley Ryan to the NSBA years ago. And they're not getting her back.

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## GE grabs Honeywell

In a stunning last-minute move, General Electric acquired a planned \$40-billion (U.S.) merger between Honeywell International Inc. and United Technologies Corp. by offering to buy Honeywell for \$43 billion. GE chairman Jack Welch disclosed the offer while the United and Honeywell boards were meeting to approve their merger. The legendary Welch said he might put off his retirement in April to work through the deal.

## Thomson gets Harcourt

Toronto-based data firm Thomson Corp. paid \$3 billion for key assets of U.S. educational publisher Harcourt General to expand its learning division. Thomson took over the assets from Anglo-Dutch firm Reed Elsevier, which bought Harcourt for \$6.7 billion. Thomson, which has been on a buying binge this year while selling off to newspapers, said it would now slow down and digest its acquisitions.

## Microsoft hacked

Microsoft Corp. said hackers had gained access to parts of its corporate computer system, allowing them to look at secret source code—the fundamental programming—for software under development. Officials said nothing was changed, nor were the hackers able to get at code for the flagship Windows and Office products.

## Royal Trust retires sue

About 250 retired employees of Toronto-based Royal Trust, a subsidiary of the Royal Bank, are suing the parent company for \$200 million as a dispute over ownership of a pension surplus. Royal Bank acquired the trust company in 1993 and, the unions say, made changes to the plan that reduced annual benefits by thousands of dollars each. The bank denied the claims.

## BCE profits rise

Montreal-based media and telecom giant BCE Inc. reported third-quarter earnings of \$329 million, up 13 per cent from a year earlier and ahead of analyst expectations. Chairman Jean Mony also said the company will create four distinct operating units

## Not quite a consensus

## With much optimism,

Finance Minister Paul Martin called it the "Montreal consensus," an agreement by finance ministers and central bankers from 19

countries and the European Union to commit to slowing off financial crises and spreading the benefits of globalization. Martin said the accord, hammered out along with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank at a two-day meeting that drew protests in Montreal, will ensure that the benefits of the current economic boom accrue fairly to the greatest number of people. The G-20—formed last year to give emerging economies such as India, Brazil and Mexico a stronger voice in world financial discussions—agreed on

## Montreal protest claims of exploitation

a cocktail of policies that included better social safety nets, environmental cooperation, ending corruption and helping heavily indebted poor countries.

Outside the meeting, net police used pepper spray, hoses and arrests to fend off more than 400 protesters. They argued that organizations like the G-20 dictate policy to developing countries and increase exploitation. Martin said the meeting had taken account of the demonstrators' concerns.

## Experts find no collusion on gas prices

Since early 1999, motorists have seen gasoline prices jump by about 20 cents a litre, but a draft report prepared by the Coefficient Board of Canada places the blame squarely on volatile world markets rather than collusion among domestic producers. The report, based on an analysis of prices in 16 cities by economists Jan Frank and Michael Spierber, concludes that the Canadian market is competitive and efficient, and dismisses the oft-heard complaint that oil companies work together to jack up prices on weekends.

## Financial Outlook

A record 6.2 million Canadians put money into their registered retirement savings plans last year. The number of contributors rose in every province and territory except Saskatchewan. Even so, only 36 per cent of those eligible to put money into their RRSPs did so. For the 1999 tax year, contributions totalled \$27.8 billion, up 2.6 per cent from the year before. With an average national contribution of \$4,677, Nunavut's tax filers led the country, putting as

average \$6,098 into the tax-sheltered plans. Contributions in Nunavut, coastal in April that year with an influx of people and money, rose by a whopping 12.5 per cent. Lowest-ranked Manitoba's average of \$3,815 was unchanged from 1998.

## SOCKING IT AWAY

Average RRSP contributions, 1999 tax year				
RRSP Location	\$4,616	Plus Contribution	\$4,616	
Alberta	\$4,616	None	\$4,616	
British Columbia	\$3,815	None	\$3,815	
Manitoba	\$3,815	None	\$3,815	
Ontario	\$4,616	None	\$4,616	
Quebec	\$4,616	None	\$4,616	
New Brunswick	\$3,815	None	\$3,815	

Source: Statistics Canada

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## Tech Explorer

# The PlayStation quest

There is a new quest for video gamers who love a challenge: the pursuit of the elusive PlayStation 2. Last week, many failed in the search for Sony's eagerly awaited new game console. The unbeatable obstacle: a shortage of product. In September, Sony said that because of a lack of components, it would ship only 500,000 PS2 units for the North American launch on Oct. 26—half of what had been promised. That forced



Waiting up at Toys "R" Us in Toronto: parents for games

Canadian retailers the Bay to restrict PS2 sales to a lone store in Toronto, which promptly sold out. Wal-Mart decided not to sell the game until two days after the launch because it did not want to be out of stock when its flyer hit the streets.

Toys "R" Us took a different approach. Like many retailers, the company pre-sold a number of its consoles, but withheld 500 units for a midnight launch party at its Toronto outlet on Yonge Street. Rita Harris, 16, arrived in the store from home 14 hours early, waiting the game for her boyfriend, Dave Street, 17. The two apply the passion for gaming that many fans share. It took Street almost a year to complete one of his favourite games, Final Fantasy VIII, involving the search for a princess. "When he did, I was so excited," she says, "very emotional." For being first in line, Toys "R" Us gave Harris a free PS2.

Sony's initial success with the new console is partly rooted in the huge popularity of its first PlayStation, launched in 1995. At the time, Nintendo and Sega led the global gaming market. But since then, Sony has sold 80 million PlayStation consoles worldwide, and now controls 61 per cent of hardware sales. There are 800 game titles available for the first PlayStation, all of which Sony says can be played on the new one. And the demand has been exceptional. Back in March, when

Sony released the PS2 in Japan, frenzied shoppers snapped up nearly one million units in the first three days.

Technically like the specs. The PlayStation 2 is powered by a 128-bit processor running at 295 megahertz and boasts 32 megabytes of memory. It plays CDs, games and DVD movies, and has ports for a modem, hard-disk drive, keyboard and mouse. It also seems to be a good investment, if only while the frenzy lasts: auction sites like eBay listed bids of up to \$1,500 for a PS2, well above its \$449 retail price. The search continues.

## Cool Sites

### Canajun, eh?

It's not the only such site, but The Canajun Notebook, located at [canajun.net](http://canajun.net), offers an impressive list of links to all things Canadian. There, visitors will find the charter of rights, a "Today in History" section, links to all federal political parties and most news outlets, and such diversion as Lynn Johnson's *For Dummies* or *For Newcomers* trip and the heritage department's account of the fascinating history of G Gammas.

Danylo Haveluk

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People Edited by Stacey Deist

## For better, not worse

In 1972, Lynn Johnson gave birth to two things: her son, Aaron, and a new career. Working as a medical artist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Johnson was challenged by her obstetrician to draw cartoons for the oblique above his morning tables. The result was more than 80 drawings, which appeared in her first book, *Dead! With Pregnancy!* Since then, Johnson has hardly looked back. After two more books, in 1979, the Universal Press Syndicate in Kansas City, Mo., offered her a 25-year contract for her *For Better or for Worse* comic strip. Twenty-one years later, she and it are still going strong.

Those two decades of material provided written and animated art at Ocean's Funbag Animation Studios with more than enough fodder to produce a new weekly animated series based on the strip, which premiered on Nov. 4 on television. Johnson introduces the segments, which show the characters at different times of life. "It's like looking through a family album," she says.

Johnson, who was born in Collingwood, Ont., and now lives in North Bay, Ont., credits her initial success to telling stories from a woman's point of view—something rarely seen in comics at the time. "The men's



Johnson, after 21 years in newspapers, the *Patterson* now comes to television



point of view was playing ball with Junior," she explains, "while for me it was picking up after him." So the *Patterson* were born—the cartoon family based on her own husband, herself, children and dog. But, she says, there's no point asking how her kids felt about growing up alongside their cartoon alter egos—for one very good reason: "They don't read my strip."

## An up and down ride

For a year, Vancouver writer-director Scott Smith has ridden the slipstream of his first movie, *Rollercoaster*. Smith, 30, took the drama—about five men racing hell in a deserted amusement park—to festivals across Europe and the United States, winning half a dozen prizes. But Smith couldn't find a Canadian distributor—likely because he had to invest the money from *Rollercoaster*'s TV sale in the movie's \$1-million budget. Now, he's distributing the movie himself. He's also plugging into a new script, and will direct *Falling Angels*, based on a *Burton Gendy* novel. *Rollercoaster*, he says, prepared him for anything: "I've gone from being surrounded by hoops to dropping like a stone."



Smith: *Rollercoaster*

## Lucky Nora—no love

As the woman behind *Where Henry Met Sally*, *Stephanie in Seattle* and *You're Got Mail*, Nora Ephraim is the queen of romantic comedy. But *Lucky Nora*—starring Julia Roberts as a TV westerner who plots with the letter-ball girl (Lisa Kudrow) to fix the state lottery—is a departure. "It doesn't have an emotional bone in its body," boasts the writer-director. It's also the first movie

epitaphic. "I didn't want this to be *Fargo*, with people tied into a wood chipper."

As a half-brother, letter-ball girl, Kudrow was no Meg Ryan. In one scene, the bear



Ephraim: her an emotional bone?

Michael Moore so hard he was hospitalized with a bruised stomach. In another, the kicked Michael Rappaport in the pants when he wasn't wearing a cap. "He fell on the ground screaming," recalls Ephraim. "She thought he was putting her on."

He was putting her on. "He wasn't. Ephraim may be overwriting the check book so far, her favorite movie this year is *Gladiator*."

# The moon stalkers

Astronomy revels in a new age of discovery

For **McMaster University** astronomer J.J. Kavelaars, the celestial discoveries have come in astonishingly swift succession since 1997. First, it was five moons never seen before orbiting Uranus. Then, it was the most distant known object in the solar system. And last week, he and a team of Canadian and American colleagues revealed they had found four previously unknown moons orbiting Saturn. Kavelaars and his associates in those breakthroughs credit advances in new technology, ranging from expanded computing capabilities to finely tuned telescopes and cameras, with making watching the heavens a much more productive task. "We're in an exciting new age of discovery," he says.

Powerful computers have replaced the task of sifting through the vast volumes of data gleaned each day from telescopes around the world. As a result, astronomers are constantly surprising their colleagues with new discoveries. Last week, Yale University researchers announced the existence of a new minor planet—a planetoid—in the far reaches of the solar system near Pluto. A discovery of that magnitude "doesn't happen every day," laughs Kavelaars, "but it has happened every month for a while now."

Kavelaars first observed the moons of Saturn in late September using the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope in Mauna Kea. In co-operation with Brett Gladman, a Calgary native working as an observatory in the south of France, and three colleagues from Harvard and Princeton universities, Kavelaars



Kavelaars: four new moons of Saturn

confirmed the existence of four small, icy satellites. Aside from its rings of small particles, Saturn has 17 moons orbiting in equator. Astronomers have known of anachas, irregular moons—meaning one composed of space debris captured in the planet's orbit—in a much more distant orbit since 1896. That one, named Phoebe, is 220 km across. The four newly spotted satellites, also irregular moons, are much smaller—15 to 75 km in diameter.

Scientists hope their studies of how the moons ended up in Saturn's orbit will help unlock some mysteries of the planets. In conjunction with other recent discoveries, says Kavelaars, "we can start to think about what makes the planets different from each other, why we have an Earth-like planet and what clues could point to other Earth-like planets." As for the flood of announcements, he expects it will persist.

"Probably in 10 years the discovery era will have ended," Kavelaars says. "We will be back to the more mundane business of understanding what all of these discoveries are telling us."

Andy Cameron

## Winter Driving Tips

Balance is the key to mastering traction with your car. Through a combination of acceleration, braking and steering, keep a grip by making your tire do only one thing at a time!

### On slippery roads:

- ▶ Use all the grip available by gently braking BEFORE a curve while the car is traveling straight (100% braking, 0% steering)
- ▶ Take your foot off the brake BEFORE you steer into the curve (0% braking, 100% steering)
- ▶ Accelerate AFTER completing the corner and the wheels are straight (0% steering, 100% acceleration)

By slowing down before the corner, the weight is transferred to the front and will stay there unless you start to accelerate. Turning is easier with the weight loaded on the front.

### If you find yourself going into a skid:

- ▶ Try not to panic
- ▶ Do not hit the brakes or yank the steering wheel!

For OVERSTEER (rear wheels lose grip), turn into the skid and gently accelerate.

For UNDERSTEER, ease off the brake or accelerator and straighten wheels to regain grip and steer through the corner if there is not enough room to make the correction, then straighten wheels and brake.

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## Danger in coach class

Why airline passengers should walk around

Like many a long-distance traveller, Brenda Christofferson was feeling a bit regret on arrival at London's Heathrow airport last week. The 28-year-old sales assistant from Newport, Wales, had just completed the grueling 30-hour return flight from a three-week vacation in Australia. She spent much of the journey pressed into the cheap seats of a Qatar Airlines Boeing 747 jumbo. As the filed through immigration controls at Heathrow, the complained of feeling unwell. While waiting for her luggage at customs lane, she fainted. Christofferson, a fit, active, non-smoking, blonde-to-be, died on the way to hospital. "We were told," said her 46-year-old mother, Ruth, "that her death

resulted from sitting in the cramped seat of a jumbo jet for such a long time."

Deep vein thrombosis, or DVT, is the official medical explanation for the effluence that killed Christofferson. But airline industry and travel safety experts have coined another term: "economy class syndrome." It is a poorly understood phenomenon that according to some British aviation experts is damaging, possibly hundreds of airline passengers last around the world each year. The culprits, in the opinion of many authorities, is the lack of space, particularly leg room, in the economy class cabi-

na of most of the world's passenger planes. The prolonged immobility combined with the pressure on limbs in confined conditions can sometimes, as appeared to happen with Christofferson, cause the formation of a thrombus, or blood clot, in the veins deep within the muscle tissues of the leg. The clot then travels—hours, days, even weeks later—to the heart, lungs or brain, where it can cause death.

There are no precise estimates of how many air travellers may suffer from blood clots each year. But a continuing inquiry into air travel health hazards conducted by a committee

of Britain's House of Lords heard last May that some 2,500 to as many as 30,000 people develop DVT each year in Britain alone as a result of flying. Treating those victims costs the British National Health Service \$250 million annually. In stark contrast, Transport Canada spokesman Peter Cayless said



Christofferson DVT

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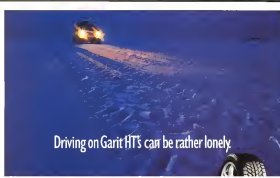
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DVT cases are "exponentially rising." Risk factors, he noted, include such elements as smoking, lack of exercise, previous fractures and genetics as well as the confines of an airline seat.

Only a small portion of those affected have died. Those most at risk, according to the British Aviation Health Institute, are the taller, heavier and older passengers flying in aircraft where the seat pitch—the gap between seat backs—is 31 inches or less. "Average-size people can no longer fit into these seats," says Fumio Kaku, director of the Oxford-based institute. "The blood clot is produced by the legs pressing against the seat in front, compressing the veins against the seat at your side."

Free airlines, at least in economy class, have seat pitches much in excess of 31 inches. On Qantas, the coach-class pitch is between 31 and 32 inches. Air Canada's ranges between 31 and 34 inches. British Airways used to boast a

pitch of 36 inches, but that has become 31 inches since the carrier's privatisation in 1987. The situation is worse on many low-cost charter airlines, where the pitch can fall as low as 28 inches.

Growing concerns across Europe about the danger posed by DVT may

### A British inquiry heard that as many as 30,000 air travellers develop blood clots each year

soon prompt some national aviation authorities to raise minimum pitch standards, generally set at 35 inches. Both the House of Lords inquiry and a similar investigation by the European Union's Joint Aviation Authority are expected to recommend expanding economy-class leg room despite the resistance of major airline operators, who argue such a mea-

sure would force them to increase fares.

Many airlines are the link between seat size and DVT, an unfounded, "It's a bit of a red herring," argued a British Airways spokesman last week. "The illness can potentially hit someone sitting in a business-class seat, or even driving a motor or attending the dentist." The critics, however, are not convinced. "The truth is we don't know how much space is safe," said Kate Levine of Britain's Consumer's Association, which has long campaigned for more legroom on air carriers. "We want more research on the issue."

In the meantime, air safety experts recommend frequent walks in the aisle or massaging ankles and legs to prevent the formation of blood clots. Passengers should also take care in drink non-alcoholic fluids. The airlines, the experts add, could be more forthcoming in advising passengers about both the unseen hazards that lurk on long-distance jetliners as well as the steps that can be taken to guard against them.

Barry Caine in London

## Films

# The Blair kitsch project

An indie hit goes Hollywood

**Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2**

*Directed by Joe Berlinger*

"The horror! The horror!"

Hollywood knows that every hit horror movie should spawn a sequel, if not a franchise. But duplicating the phenomenon of *The Blair Witch Project*, the most profitable indie film in history, presents a conundrum. This weird little tale into the heart of darkness—Joseph Conrad with camcorders—told in hoodwink us into believing we were watching the video diary of real murder victims. Thanks to the media, most people saw through the faux-documentary conceit before seeing the movie. Some were still scared, others just felt hoodwinked by the hype. The sequel was catering to both camps, but by subsuming fear of the unknown with fear of the obvious, it's no scarier than the surgery channel.

*Book of Shadows* writer-director Joe Berlinger, a documentary-maker making fiction for the first time, would appear well-matched to the material: his 1996 film *Prejudice Last: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills* explored the conflict of fear and fiction in a real case of alleged demonic killing. But Berlinger does not try to do so. *The Blair Witch Project* dinky-camera documentary style. His sequel is an unadvised Hollywood movie, almost eclipsing the original's \$36,000 budget with the helicopter shot over the opening credits.

Like *Scream*, the story hinges on a postmodern trope: it's about five characters who are obsessed with the original movie. Jeff (Jeffrey Donovan) is a former racialist panther who sells *Blair Witch* kitch to the tourists who descend on the film's real-life setting of Burkinstown, Md. Armed with an arsenal of video equipment, he leads four others—a grad-student couple, a Wiccan wannabe and a Goth psychic—through the woods to the site of the *Blair Witch* murders. During a night of

stoned and drunken revelry, gruesome acts are committed. Then, with the evidence mysteriously encoded on videotape, the group returns to Jeff's farmhouse late—it has a drawbridge—and the sequel turns into a lurid-cliche movie, with jarring flashes of slasher violence and a laundry of horrors to horror classics.

*Book of Shadows* toys with ideas about delusion, group hysteria and the notion that screen violence breeds real violence. While working hard to titillate, it also promotes its own pet conceit—that video tells the truth, while film lies. But in the end,



Looking for the movie, gruesome acts are committed

no amount of conceptual subterfuge can disguise the naked desperation of filmmakers trying to turn a cult phenomenon into a Hollywood franchise.

Brian D. Johnson

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# New York's new king of clubs

Jeffrey Jah rules the door at the Big Apple's hottest night spot

By Shanda Denzel in New York

One of New York City's hottest nightclubs is located in the newly trendy small-packing district, where the smell of roasting animal flesh can be sniffed. Accordingly, the door policy at Lotus is to let in the beautiful people and turn away lesser mortals within five minutes. In this West Village neighborhood, where the dark streets were once lined with prostitutes, SUV limos now shuttle glamorous types to this restaurant-like Paris and Fresno. And at Lotus, models arrive with celebrities in tow, snubbing past the velvet rope, a doorman and a bevy of security guards. Inside, they move along the bar made of bobbing wood—a luscious mahogany from Africa—sipping \$12 mixed drinks served by Gwyneth Paltrow look-alikes. Thanks to a \$5.2-million renovation, this once-outcast club is now a three-level restaurant-lounge-dance club, packed with regulars like Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Naomi Campbell, Elle McPherson, Kelsey Harne, Sean (Puffy) Combs and Jennifer Lopez. Even Salman Rushdie bowed recently that he'd been to Lotus. And pulling the strings is Canadian co-owner Jeffrey Jah, a 51-year-old model named party promoter and currently the go-to-guy of New York night life.

Jah looks like the guy next door, but talks like a jet-setting adviser of cool. Dressed in an old flannel shirt and jeans for a recent interview, he has unkempt, he tells us of partying all over the world with models, actors, photographers and



Photo by Jeff M. Rosen for The New York Times

power players. Obviously proud to have such well-known friends, Jah floats the cliché "celebrities just want to be treated like ordinary people." Still, he knows they are his ticket to continued success—and Jah is unapologetically ambitious. He talks of taking his concept for Lotus to London, Paris and Los Angeles, and of what he will do when Lotus withers: "There is no doubt the hype will go down," says Jah, whose girlfriend of seven years, Zofia Borucka, is a model. "To be very arrogant, every two years I would like to open a new club so I will always have the hot chicks."

And he is not to be underestimated. In his 10-year career as the rep of New York's night life, Jah has been associated—in a non-ownership capacity—with almost every club-of-the-moment. In 1991, he acted as DiGirolamo, throwing



Lotus: Jah (opposite) all over the world with celebrities and power players

Rakoda—cragging New York's fashion crowd—while working illegally. Within a few years, he recognized that what New York was looking for was European-style intimate VIP lounges. In 1993, Jah impressed club owner Gatten with his ability to draw an upscale crowd to a dance venue full of thousands of young bods. Gatten made Jah director at his next two hot spots, Club USA and Tunnel. At both places, Jah's VIP rooms were a huge success.

In 1996, Jah left the large club scene for the smaller, more intimate atmosphere at Life. A year later, Gatten became the target of a crackdown on ecstasy in clubs. He was acquitted of drug-conspiracy charges in 1998 and has since reopened three of his venues. But his longtime protégé now seems destined to eclipse him.

In 1999, *The New York Times* deemed Jah one of "the five most important people in New York... if you're Leonardo DiCaprio." In fact, Jah did introduce DiCaprio to onetime girlfriend Bridget Hall—but more important, Jah is the guy celebrities call when they are in New York to plan their evenings out. Now, Jah often dresses them to Lotus, which has become the place to throw posh party. Last May, *Time* magazine editor Tina Brown opened Lotus for business with a party for 600 celebrities and TV executives. Since then at Lotus, *N Sync* has held an after-concert soiree, and Combs threw a surprise 30th birthday party for his girlfriend, access-singer Jennifer Lopez. "Puffy," says Jah, "is very lusty—once he calls me five days before his birthday, saying, 'I need a surprise party for Jennifer.' We had to bring it all together: cake, decor, seating, permits, police and not look it— which is very hard to do in New York." Lotus is also a hot restaurant, getting 300 requests for reservations a day. "After 10 o'clock," says Jah, "if you are not a good friend of ours, you are not going to get a table." One recent evening, Rob Lowe was working the room while dinner nudged into the chocolate pyrotechnics filled with haystack mousse and other culinary extravaganzas. Jah, dressed stylishly in black with his hair pulled back, moved from the main dance-floor downstairs to the bar-restaurant on the mezzanine to the mezzanine lounge upstairs, inconspicuously controlling what he calls the flow of the club.

hair doing, going long before the mood or the punks."

More might have preferred Jah stick with modelling for the Bay and Eason's print ads, which he did during his teens. Instead, he immersed himself in the music and business of Toronto's night life. He began throwing underground parties at so-called boogie cars, bringing in the best DJs from New York and Chicago and charging \$10 for all you could drink. For one of these events, Jah was fined \$14,000 by the Liquor License Board of Ontario. In 1986, Jah made his first visit to New York and was hooked. Back in Toronto, he took on a series of day jobs while throwing parties at night to amass enough capital for his assault on Manhattan.

That took place in 1989. He changed his name from Jeffrey Allan Hickey to Jah, his initials, and began building his

He says his main concern is the door—who's getting in and who's being turned away. Jah thinks the best thing about his place is that you can be a nobody and if you show up at the door with that certain edge, you're rubbing shoulders with all of his celebrity friends. "It is really egalitarian and permission to divide groups of people up," says Jah, "but that's the nature of the business. I can't be a group of six Wall Street guys in my place and I can't be in four couples from Brooklyn with big hair and gold fluorescent dresses." But Jah insists, no matter how tossed your bangs might be, you will be turned away politely and quickly. That's because, he says, is the Canadian in him. ■

Fans arriving at the  
SlyDome at a  
audience of 15,000

# The Rowling Connection

By Brian Bethune

The only person in the world who could have enticed 15,000 children to a baseball stadium to hear someone read from a book finally arrived in Canada last week. British writer Joanne Kathleen Rowling, creator of the hugely popular Harry Potter series, came to Toronto and Vancouver to meet her fans, to attend a fund-raising lunch for children's literature, to headline the largest literary reading ever staged, and—quite incidentally—to renew an extraordinary friendship that began with a letter she received in July, 1999.

At the time, Harry-mania was already exploding in English-speaking countries. In Edinburgh, Rowling was hunkered down, attacking all media requests and most outside distractions, as she worked feverishly on the lengthy story that eventually became the 636-page *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. And in Toronto, nine-year-old Natalie McDonald was dying. "She was obsessed with the Harry Potter books," says her aunt, Kiddle. "They had been her escape from the hell of leukemia. And because I'm the sort of person who thinks there must be something I can do, I badgered Rowling's publisher in London, sending them a letter and e-mail and a fax for her."

Powered on by the publishers, the letter arrived at Rowling's Edinburgh home a day after the author had left for a holiday in Spain. "When I came back two weeks later and read it, I had a bad feeling I was too late," Rowling told *McGraw*. "I tried to phone Anne but she wasn't in, so I e-mailed both Natalie and her mother, Valerie—because Anne hadn't told Valerie what she had done." Rowling was right in her forecasting—the e-mails were received the day after Natalie died on Aug. 3.

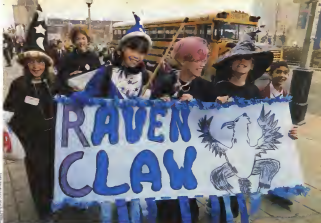
"Jo's e-mail was beautiful," Kiddle says. "She didn't patronize Natalie, or tell her everything was OK; she addressed

her as a human being who was going through a hard time. She talked about her books and her characters and which ones she liked best." And more remarkably of all, Rowling freely shared the secrets of her fourth novel, details media and fans desperately sought for another 11 months.

The story might have ended there, but Valerie McDonald wrote back in thanks. "That letter touched deep," Rowling says slowly, trying to explain the ease in which she holds Natalie's mother. "I just knew, reading it, that if we had been two mothers waiting for our kids at the school gate, we'd have been friends." So a regular correspondence began, and an unexpected friendship—the one moment of light in this whole horrible thing," says Kiddle—was cemented last summer when McDonald, her husband, Bruce Stronach, and their two daughters travelled to Britain to meet Rowling.

But even before that, the author had quietly commenced the reader she never met. On page 159 of *Goblet of Fire*, the famous young boy of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry sends five-year-old Natalie McDonald—the only real person named in any of Rowling's novels—to Harry's own Gryffindor house. It was during that English visit last summer, making the just-released *Goblet of Fire* to her daughter while riding on the London tube, that Valerie McDonald learned of Rowling's gesture. And on Rowling's first day in Canada, says the writer, she spent a "wonderful" afternoon at Niagara Falls with the McDonald family and Kiddle.

The public part of Rowling's visit went very well, too, to put it mildly. When she arrived in Toronto on Oct. 22, the writer said she was nervous about reading from her novel before thousands of children in the city's evergreen SlyDome. Two days later at the stadium podium, Rowling evidently still felt



the same way, responding to a thunderous cheer with "I'm delighted—and terrified—to be here." But in soon as she spoke, 15,000 children dropped into a rapt silence they hadn't quite managed for the two popular Canadian authors—Ken Oppel and Tim Wynne-Jones—who read before her. And when Rowling finished 14 minutes later, the children erupted in loud and sustained applause. Accompanying adults might have gasped at the acrobatics, but the kids were happy to be there. Nine-year-old Iain McCann had to make a hard choice to miss taking part in Toronto's cross-country running championships in order to attend, but he wasn't one planning. "It'll be a memory for the rest of my life, like a historical date."

Rowling's incredible sales—some 40 million copies worldwide—have left commentators struggling to explain her success. Praise for the absorbing Potter novels is near universal, but good critics alone do not seem explanation enough. A major answer may lie in Rowling's connection with children as seen on her current tour and in the measure of her letter to Natalie McDonald. The writer's jam-packed six-day visit to Canada had its share of inevitable, adult-world glitches (Besides the SlyDome's terrible sound quality there was Rowling's address at the fund-raising lunch, so unexpectedly brief that the rest of her day had to scramble to get up on stage.) But with children Rowling unfailingly connects.

The best part of her book tour is "meeting child readers," she told *apex*. "They ask the best questions—no offence to any of you. The children talk about the characters so though they're mutual friends I happen to know a bit better."

And despite large "no autographs" signs at the fund-raising lunch for the Toronto Public Library's Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, a steady stream of children successfully approached her throughout. "Dear Jo," sighed Jackie Davis, one of her society aunts, "she never gets to eat lunch."

Respect for children, who Rowling thinks are "grossly underestimated" by mortals, is also apparent throughout the Potter novels. Death is a major theme. The villain wants to be forever, by whatever means it takes, and the hero is the child of murdered parents, whose mother died to preserve his life. Death and family are inextricably linked for Rowling. "I'm fascinated with big families in the stories I like, probably because I'm from such a small one," she says. "My parents were so young when they married—my mother was only 20 when she had me, 25 for my sister, De—[that we had four big grandmothers and lots of great aunts and uncles. But they were big as to, including my mother from multiple sclerosis when I was 25, so now there's only me, my sister, my daughters, Jessica, my father and one son.]"

Perhaps it's Rowling's family history that has given her the "handle on dying" that Toronto bookseller Jesse Kalin, owner of The Cottage, reads, sees in her books. "She deals with death very beautifully. I didn't think of it until someone began to return for additional Harry Potter copies to give to friends who had suffered a loss. And those people found them comforting." A pleased Rowling responds, "It's that the case, then I'm very gratified." She sounded surprised by Kalin's remark. Valerie McDonald probably wouldn't be. ☐

## How a young Toronto girl's story touched an author's heart



Rowling: an extraordinary friendship

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## Life and love in Vancouver

Good scraps for the hip urban set—thank *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*—and life issues with glam characters and settings. A new CBC series premiering on Nov. 3 does much the same in a more northerly West Coast context, Vancouver's *Two of Us*. Creator Tracy the oh-so-very-placed lives of a half-dozen successful suburbanites. Chase Monroe (Shirley MacLennan) is a radio DJ who lives a friends AIDS-related death, the choice between her own talk show and her long-distance love, and parental expectations—all in one episode. Then



MacLennan: heavy themes and deft dialogue

heavy themes: fragile, a lightened by deft dialogue, and numerous Canadian characters give the show a definite sense of place. *Two* can be as enjoyable watch—when it doesn't try to shoulder too much.

Susan Oh

## Operatic Revenge

Performers often do more than one persona in a given show, but hardcore Denis Heatonovsky goes further—he sings a duet with himself. The 37-year-old Siberian star is both the title character in Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni* and his servant, Leporello, in a new one-hour film by Rhombus Media, *Don Giovanni: Leporello's Revenge* will air on Bravo on



Heatonovsky: a duet on his own

Jan. 27, as well as on PBS in March, 2001, and in a half-dozen other countries. Director Barbara Wills Swartz throws in a twist, telling the story from Leporello's point of view—and having him jealous that he and Don Giovanni are the same person. "Some people expect wild, 'How can you play with this masterpiece?' but all of the music supports it," says Swartz. "I don't think Mozart would disagree."

## Morbid musing

"Halloween really happens in the heart," says *Rue Morgue* founder and publisher Rod Gaudin, 32. "I look normal, but I surround myself with horrific visuals, which I find beautiful." His Toronto-based magazine, devoted to the culture of terror, started as an underground zine, but is now a beautifully colour glossy that boasts an unpaid circulation of 50,000. With section headings like *Post-mortem* and critiques of the scariest movies and books, *Rue Morgue* also aims high with articles on German Expressionism of the 1920s—credited with spawning the first horror films—and Hollywood's most famous haunted houses. A moderately fine peek at the dark side.



Concealed (left) and Later (see list)

## Bleak dreams

Another grim tale of lost love and dreams adapted from the novel by Hubert Selby Jr., of *Last Exit to Brooklyn* fame. The film stars Ellen Barkin, Jared Leto and Jennifer Connelly as the hapless trio from Corey Laund.

## Pop Movies

1. <i>Unleashed</i> (PG-13)	\$194,282
2. <i>Word Is Female</i> (PG-13)	\$178,365
3. <i>My 6 Year Old</i> (TV-14)	\$137,408
4. <i>Demolition</i> (R)	117,016
5. <i>The Godfather</i> (PG-13)	\$47,460
6. <i>The Gleaners &amp; I</i> (PG)	\$469,740
7. <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> (PG-13)	\$448,518
8. <i>Lost Love</i> (TV-14)	\$448,518
9. <i>Little Boy</i> (PG-13)	\$448,518
10. <i>My 6 Year Old</i> (TV-14)	\$448,518

Top movies in Canada, including weekend office receipts during the week they ended on Oct. 26. (To include weekend of normal film-theater opening.) Source: Entertainment Weekly

## Not a pretty picture

Anyone who finds Elsie due to AIDS dancing to think about may want to avoid science writer Carl Zimmer's *Parasite* (Doubleday). Scientists have only begun to learn the most complex often possesses have on the organisms they inhabit. Zimmer writes with elegance of the astonishingly subtle *Thalassidroma pacifica*, a parasitic flatworm that lives on the backs of fish as a head of the many, even though its natural hosts are



Parasite (see list)

## Best-Sellers

Fiction	2000
1. <i>The Road to Nowhere</i> (Mystery/Thriller)	1
2. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	2
3. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	3
4. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	4
5. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	5
6. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	6
7. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	7
8. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	8
9. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	9
10. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	10

## Nonfiction

1. <i>The Road to Nowhere</i> (Mystery/Thriller)	1
2. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	2
3. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	3
4. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	4
5. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	5
6. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	6
7. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	7
8. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	8
9. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	9
10. <i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (Science Fiction)	10

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## Dirty laundry

Ten Seng Hoi has no qualms about airing laundry from Canada past. He is the curator of Enduring Hardship: Chinese Head Laundry, a permanent exhibit recently unveiled at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Que. "The hand-wash laundry is a painful memory for Chinese-Canadians," says Hoi, who came to Canada from Singapore in the 1960s. "It is a symbol of suffering and of hard work for survival." At their peak in the 1930s, 6,000 such businesses operated across Canada. The exhibit includes



Laundryman: a painful memory

footage of interviews with the few surviving cleaners. Observes Hoi of this gruelling 18-hour day: "Many said they hand-washed clothes with their own tears."



Allan Fotheringham

## They will never understand

Well, it is concluded, there is no hope for this wonderful land of ours. It is not the serenity of J. Chrétien, nor the threat of Quebec separation (nonexistent). It is that no one on the other end of the mountains will ever understand British Columbia.

Those of us who have some acquaintanceship with the territory did not blink a moment when ex-premier Glen Clark was charged by police with doing naughty things with a possible invitation to spend some time in the slammer.

It fits with the mood of the three guys, including him, never serving out their terms in prison. The previous guy, Mike Harcourt, an honest man, bowed out voluntarily because he could not shake the Mulcair-Moore image of his NDP being brought down by a goofy scandal involving... David Letterman would love it—bingo games in a Nunsen church basement.

The guy before him, a screwball named Bill Vander Zant, quit after being revealed as stooping in a large brown envelope, an embarrassing amount of cash provided by a millionaire from Taiwan.

The guy before him, Mimi MacBarron, has since been degraded and his family reputation ruined by an insider-trading scandal—while a millionaire himself making even more—through a quick call by a buddy before the stock markets knew about it.

Such is life. Such is B.C.

Such is Lonsdale. What you gotta realize, is that, in 1876, the B.C. Legislature, put off by delays in construction of a train-Canada railway that brought the province into Confederation, passed a motion threatening secession from Canada. Hello there, René Lévesque.

B.C.'s anger has deep roots. One of its earliest pretensions, Amor de Cosmos—"Love of the World," actually a Nova Scotia-born drifter from California named William Alexander Smith—and "I would not object to a little revolution now and again in British Columbia, after Confederation, if we were treated unfairly for I am one of those who believe that political homicide stinks to the stinky of the stars."

It is a little wonder that Sir John A., no doubt weary as he staggered at the podium, described B.C. as "the child of the devils." Fairly sane, considering the scenery.

A certain columnist once wrote: "The province, in fact, is the Canadian equivalent of Ireland—controversial of authority, anarchic by nature, vexed by how almost every single day of the year, an island unto itself because of its mountains. This is the only province of the 10 that is dedicated to bedlam."

Vancouver mayor Gerry McGeer, who once doubled as an MP in Ottawa before our last world war, said furiously that "Ottawa is 2,500 miles from Vancouver but Vancouver is 25,000 miles from Ottawa." B.C.ers—explaining the anger—is the only province that has never provided a prime minister.

John Turner, though he had his 15 minutes at 24 Sussex, was born in England.

Philip Resnick, a good political scientist at the University of B.C., has just published a fine little book, *The Politics of Resource: British Columbia Reconsidered and Canadian Unity*. He joins our two contradictory stars that explain why Canada as a country doesn't understand B.C.ers.

In the national referendum on the Charlottetown accord in 1992, 54.2 per cent of Canadians voted against it. Strongest opposition of all came from B.C.: 68 per cent voted No. On the other hand, guess what? On a per capita basis in the Canadian Armed Forces in both the First and Second world wars, recruitment rates in B.C. were the highest in Canada. Go figure.

Dy Pat McGeer, nephew of Gerry, now a world-renowned brain expert and former leader of the B.C. Liberal party who defected to the Social Credit cabinet, endorsed separation. Gordon Gibson, here in a lumber firm and also a B.C. Liberal leader—was a strong Alliance advocate—says: "The opinion of an independent B.C. would work perfectly well, in both economic and political terms." He was Pierre Trudeau's first supporter for the PMS issue.

Resnick quotes from the B.C. complaint to the semi-famous 1937-1940 Rowell-Sirois Royal Commission: "Some 80 per cent of manufactured goods imported into B.C. are from Eastern Canada, 75 per cent of B.C. products are sold in open competition in world markets. B.C. buys in a protected market and sells in an unprotected one."

B.C.ers is not going to separate. But no one besides the mountains understands it. B.C.ers, surely, likes that.



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